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HISTORY OF
WEST HAVEN, CONNECTICUT

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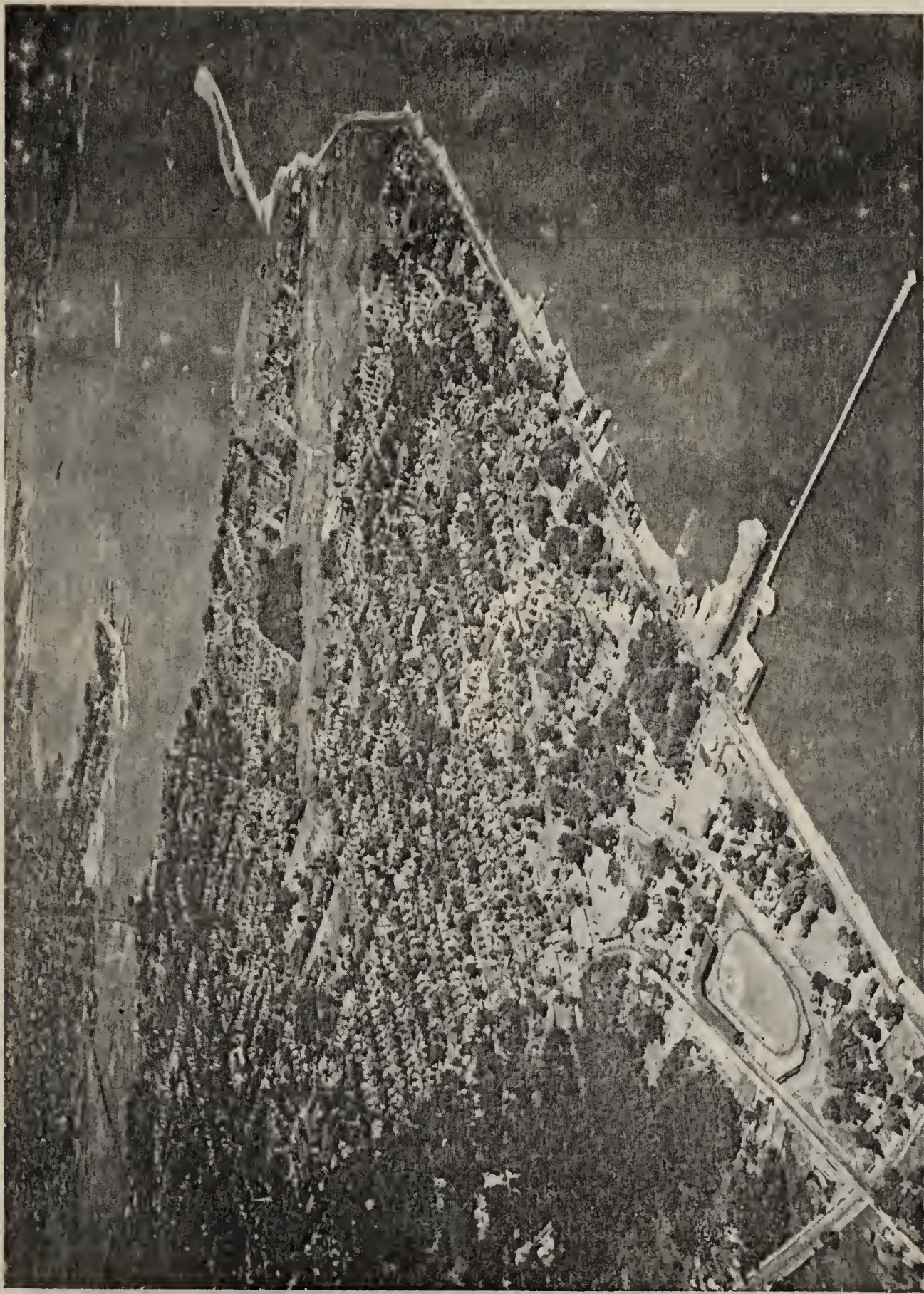
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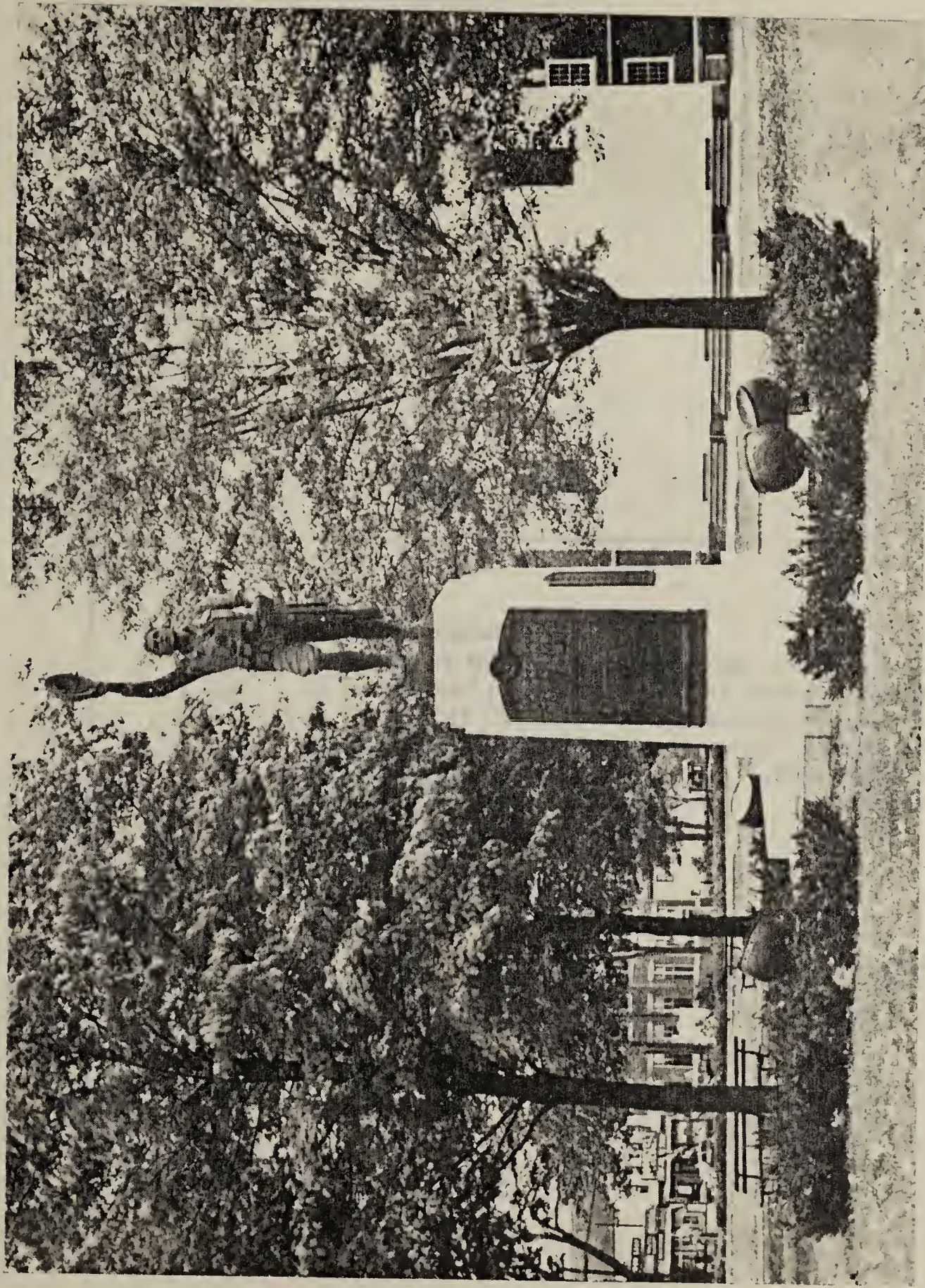
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Aerial View of the Town of West Haven,
Showing Shore Line, from Sandy Point to Savin Rock





"ARMISTICE"
World War Memorial on the Central Green



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WEST HAVEN, CONN.

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FOREWORD

As First Selectman of West Haven, I am happy indeed to have had a small part in the compilation of this volume, the first history of our Town.

On behalf of our citizens, I wish to thank the many individuals who have contributed to this endeavor.

May the written record of our "Friendly Town" be an inspiration to us all to continue the onward and upward growth of our Community, State and Nation.

CHARLES F. SCHALL.

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PREFATORY NOTE

THE WEST HAVEN GUIDE is one of a series of many guide books to states, cities, regions, and metropolitan areas prepared by the Writers' Program of the Work Projects Administration.

A unit of field workers, composed of Byron A. Guthrie, Supervisor; Louis R. Tierney, Walter L. Carleton, Edwin K. Banta, William J. Barry, Goodrich M. Bennett, and Hans L. Wieland, under the direction of two State editors, has gathered the material, and the book has been written to conform with the wishes of the West Haven Advisory Committee appointed by First Selectman Charles F. Schall.

As no history of the town had ever before been written, the work of gathering the facts has required painstaking search through Colonial records, old diaries, private papers and the records of individual local organizations. In this work the Writers' Project is indebted to, and grateful for, the generous and cordial cooperation of residents and officials who have placed at our disposal many valuable old records from private collections and town vaults.

Many facts and much data of historical importance in this book came from the painstaking notes recorded by Harry I. Thompson. The son of Silas Thompson and Minerva (Smith) Thompson, Harry I. Thompson was born in West Haven, January 31st, 1840. He attended district school on the Green and in 1853 studied at the academy of R. Quincey Brown. In 1856 Mr. Thompson was a clerk in the store of Trowbridge and Thompson. He served as West Haven Postmaster from 1861-64 during the Civil War era. A painter of considerable talent, Mr. Thompson maintained a studio from 1865 to 1870. Some of his portraits of Connecticut's Governors hang in the State Capitol at Hartford, others in the Congressional Library in Washington. He married Miss Annie Bruce on Christmas Day, 1866. In 1872 he was clerk of the West Haven Congregational Church. From October 1st, 1873 to July, 1877, he published "The West Haven Journal". Mr. Thompson died in West Haven, April 24th, 1906.

THE CONNECTICUT WRITERS' PROJECT.

WEST HAVEN

GENERAL INFORMATION

Residential—Industrial Community in New Haven County. Incorporated June 24, 1921; area taken from town of Orange.

Area—7,204 acres.

Population—1940 census: 29,970.

Taxation—23 $\frac{1}{8}$ mills; grand list (1939) \$52,590,224

Transportation—Trolley connections with New Haven; through bus service to New Haven and Bridgeport. Freight service by New York, New Haven, and Hartford Railroad.

Airport—Emergency field: T. J. Warner Farms, Jones Hill.

Through Highways—Milford Turnpike, US 1; Jones Hill Road, State 162. Shore Road; State 122; Derby Turnpike, State 34.

Accommodations—Tourists houses (several AAA approved).

Information Service—Police Department, Town Hall.

Recreation—Two motion picture houses; 4.3 miles of shore front with three public beaches; Yale Golf Course (\$30 annual dues, \$2 guest privilege); Oyster River Golf Course, Jones Hill Road (\$15 annual dues, 50c green fee); Painters Park (6 tennis courts, 3 baseball diamonds, etc., free); salt-water fishing, private streams for fresh-water fishing; numerous parks.

Annual Events—(1) May 30, Memorial Day Parade and Exercises.

(2) June 14—Elks Flag Day.

(3) Nov. 11—Armistice Day Service (American Legion).

(4) Dec. 24—Christmas Carol Community Sing.

(5) Dec. 26-30—Doorway Decoration Contest.

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WEST HAVEN TODAY

Skirting the southwestern border of New Haven, on slightly rolling land that slopes down to New Haven Harbor and Long Island Sound, the thickly settled community of West Haven, with a long main shopping street, focuses on the Green in traditional Yankee style.

Heart of the town since sheep first grazed on this "common land" almost three hundred years ago, the spacious and carefully tended Green is a heritage for future generations, a reminder of the stirring days when Minute Men gathered at the summons of the town drums to defend the village against disembarking Redcoats. Tall elms at night cast a dark border about the flood-lighted statue of a World War doughboy holding his helmet aloft, symbolic of Armistice, and, away in the shadows of the old church-yard, crumbling slabs of sandstone mark the resting place of the men and boys who gave their lives attempting to stem the British invasion in 1779.

Essentially a residential suburb of New Haven, though supporting a number of substantial manufacturing plants, West Haven presents a cosmopolitan aspect. Fine highways crisscross the township, and, through the northerly portion, the busy Post Road, US 1, carries a heavy traffic night and day. At the center, a diversity of modern shops meets the most discriminating demands for all variety of goods, from fresh green groceries to fashionable frocks and hats.

The quiet remnants of the older town linger *bashfully* at the edge of the swirling traffic of the new. A sedate old seventeenth-century dwelling often is overshadowed by a modern apartment house. The jigsaw era left its mark on the residential area in gingerbread cornice decorations, hanging above the fancy turned balusters of the wide verandas of yesteryear. Even the horse-block sometimes remains at the edge of the curb where a sleek motor car stands.

With its well-lighted, clean, and orderly streets, shopping and theatre crowds, departing and returning commuters, and, on the Sabbath, thoughtful folk on their way to and from church, West Haven may seem to the passerby, just another suburb. With familiarity the picture changes. Despite its position in the metropolitan area of New Haven, West Haven is, at heart, still a Yankee township. Voters take a personal, and often vehement, interest in town affairs; the first selectman is either "Charlie" or "Bill" to practically all of his callers; parents take an active interest in school affairs, attending in large numbers not only Parent-Teachers' meetings but school dances and other social gatherings; and a returning native is almost sure to find "everyone in town" at the large bowling alley where scores of local clubs hold weekly tourneys. Even the trolley service is geared to a fast-disappearing era. Many of the older motormen in the employ of the Connecticut Company, who pilot the cars which carry thousands of West Haven residents to and from work, personally greet their customers each morning, and are often overheard asking, "Has Johnny got a job yet?"; frequently they halt the car at a deserted corner to wait for an

HISTORY OF WEST HAVEN

accustomed passenger, who a few seconds later comes racing down the side street, buttoning his coat.

Borrowing culture from the older city of New Haven, stamped with the conservatism and thrift typical of New England, West Haven also has the modern attitude and energy of a comparatively new community. Coming of age in 1921, with its own row to hoe, the town has developed a civic consciousness and intends to keep up with the changing times.

The socio-economic pattern of West Haven offers a varied picture. A modern tire factory operates not far from the site of an old grist mill. A modern electrical-supply house stands on the very ground where an old shop once turned out wooden sewer pipe. On the spot where the British raiders landed for their march to New Haven, the brilliant lights of a lively shorefront amusement resort flash white against the sky. Neon signs glitter and cast their weird lights on the sidewalk within sight of the historic Green.

The town is young enough to have a zoning ordinance and old enough to enjoy political battles and tales of kidnapped fire engines, whisked away during the days of volunteer fire-fighters. Oldsters spin lively yarns of the political past, or, half-dreaming over a bowl of clam chowder, talk of shipping and fisheries.

A teashop invites patrons to a very old house, or a lobster palace near the shore sets out a repast to "swing" music. Parades are popular; Christmas carols with the flavor of old England are sung in the church and on the Green, and the memories of balloon ascensions are still bright in the minds of the older residents.

Graves in the old cemetery where the patriots lie are kept trim and green. Men of the Continental Line rest peacefully beside soldiers of the Army of the Potomac. The World War days are fresh, gallant memories, as the memorial on the Green testifies. All members of the Grand Army of the Republic have answered final muster, but the American Legion, the Disabled American Veterans, and the Veterans of Foreign Wars have taken over and keep Memorial Day as their fathers did.

Campaigning and Election Day, Thanksgiving Day with the home-coming throng, the Christmas holidays, Memorial Day, and July Fourth with their flurries of music and exercises, are observed by West Haveners with especial zeal.

Red Cross and Christmas seal drives have a way of going over quota in the community. The Chamber of Commerce is wideawake and active, as the many industries in town indicate. Church, civic, and fraternal organizations function with a minimum of inside politics, because West Haven airs its views and settles its controversies at Town Meetings, in the approved democratic manner.

ALONGSHORE IN WEST HAVEN.

From the easterly salt meadows, where transient picnic parties arrive in trucks to enjoy their "day at the shore", to Oyster River with its cleaner sands,



Ward-Heitman House, Elm Street;
Rear ell, Once Used as a Schoolroom



Collins House, Main Street; West Haven's Most Outstanding Old House



THE LAKESIDE HOUSE, 1880. (The photograph is a reproduction of the original in the collection of the National Archives and Records Administration.)

WEST HAVEN TODAY

a four-mile waterfront drive offers variety ranging from the quieter residential areas to a lively amusement park with every facility for recreation. Winding in and out, passing a freshwater stream coming down to meet the sea, or a cottage settlement trim with green lawns and fresh paint, this drive is a distinctive community asset. Cooled by sea breezes in the hottest day in summer, smooth, wide and well-policed, the waterfront is probably West Haven's most popular area.

A boatyard, with marine railway and other facilities for storage, repairs, and outfitting, is a beehive of activity just before the season opens. All manner of craft, all types of owners, are found here. The odor of fresh paint, oakum, and hemp, the steady knock of calking hammers and the rasp of scrapers, drift downwind any spring week-end, as the boats are made ready for the sea. With a flavor of the old days about the place, this boatyard attracts both adult and juvenile visitors who are not actually boatowners.

An itinerant kite peddler ties varihued airplane or box kites to the cat-tails in the open lands and awaits motorist customers, while sea gulls wheel overhead and survey the colorful array. Offshore, dozens of mallards are sometimes seen rising and falling on the waves like a flotilla of destroyers lying in wait for an enemy fleet.

First Avenue taps this area from the northward, a shady street bordered with arched elms and clean, green lawns. Winter problems of snow clearance are lessened by the warmer breezes from the sea, and, in summer months, gay awnings decorate piazzas built for use and not ornamentation. Perhaps to combat the effect of the salt air, but more likely because of home owners' pride in their community, more fresh paint is in evidence here than in many residential districts of inland towns.

Between the beach and the highway, a wagon that never moves from one spot is headquarters for a peddler of Rhode Island and Maine clams. Customers must bring their own paper bags, but the regular trade gladly does so, and sometimes furnishes a few extras. With a dog for company, this interesting character shares the solitude with the sea gulls, sometimes spinning a yarn for a crony or gazing out to sea, where the line of surf impatiently pounds the harbor breakwater.

Offshore about two miles, three great breakwaters, providing protection for New Haven Harbor, were built as the result of the efforts of Congressman N. D. Sperry, for whom the Sperry Light on the western breakwater was named. This light, no longer in operation, has been replaced by an automatic revolving red light. On the middle breakwater are two continuous white lights; and, on the western tip of the east wall, the New Haven Light marks the entrance to New Haven Harbor.

Beside the shore road are many older houses, once the homes of prosperous folk who came here to live beside the sea. Slowly, year by year, these former residences give way to the concessions and mercantile establishments of the pleasure resort to the westward.

HISTORY OF WEST HAVEN

At Savin Rock, a busy resort area, known as "The Coney Island of Connecticut", are many hotels and restaurants where shore dinners may be enjoyed at the water's edge. Skating rinks and dance halls cater to carefree throngs. Special busses bring loads of happy pleasure seekers. High against the sky, lined in incandescent tracery, tower the roller coasters. Red neon signs glow over inviting entrances to lobster and soft-shell crab emporiums; soft drink signs and giant ice cream cones invite trade in shops where bright metal and spotless white tables glitter under the glare of giant bulbs. Boxing fans attend fightcards of exceptional quality and midget autos race for record crowds.

Westerly from Savin Rock's amusements lie the rocks from which the area takes its name; the point of debarkation for the men from Tryon's fleet of British raiders. Within the shadow of the varicolored lights, this lookout point rises from the otherwise level shoreline and provides an eminence from which the early settlers once watched for returning whalers and sealers. Dwarf cedars and sprawling junipers, known as Savin Trees, covered these rocks.

Bradley Point, jutting out into the Sound, is one of West Haven's delightful beaches. Both summer cottages and year-round residences have been built in this section. Colorful beach attire, brightly painted canoes, lawn and beach furniture in gay color schemes, create a varied pattern on the flat, white sand.

At Cove River, a town bathing beach provides opportunity for a cool, clean swim for those residents without a cottage or beach of their own. Vendors in white, selling ice cream cones or soda pop, and sometimes a popcorn peddler's cart, frequent the spot. Captain Michael Hammond, who conducts a retail fish market here, is a veteran fisherman and fondly recalls the days when he operated a small fleet of his own. Children and their mothers, young people excited at their freedom from school, all gather at Cove River during the season.

Continuing westerly along the shorefront, rounding the point once called Oyster River Point, now, Aimes Point, the highway swings into the cove where Oyster River meets the sea. A West Haven community beach here, well policed and carefully safeguarded, is usually crowded with merry bathers in season.

From the flow of Oyster River, shellfish once received just the amount of fresh water required for their best growth. Fisherfolk dragged their nets here, and the little Colonial boats rode at anchor awaiting loads of farm produce for the New York market or the West Indies trade.

The West Haven shoreline is a beautiful southern boundary for the broad 7,204 acre township.

THE BACK COUNTRY

Behind the town itself, gently rolling hills offer many vantage points for a panoramic view of Long Island Sound, the township, and, on clearer days, even the island itself. Stone fences divide rolling upland pastures and brushlots, with here and there a trace of the old rail fences, built of split chestnut. Gray birch, sweet fern, red cedar and low huckleberry bushes cover many of these hills, with



Hubbard House in Hubbard Lane;
It's Most Curious Feature is the old "Slave Table"



Theodore J. Warner House in Jones Hill Road;
Building Had Secret Hiding Place For Smuggled Goods

WEST HAVEN TODAY

an occasional planting of red pine on "water company land", the watershed of the several lakes.

From Burwell Heights in Allingtown, the city of New Haven spreads out to the eastward, backed by East and West Rocks. Benham Hill is another look-out point from which prominent structures on Long Island can be seen on a clear day. Jones Hill, Shingle Hill, and many unnamed knolls and hummocks vary the topography of the township.

Sometimes a farmer makes a crop on small acreage or plants his grapevines at the very door. An agrarian of the old school shocks his corn in the fields in the tepee-like shape so common in Connecticut, and a pile of golden pumpkins or bronze-green squash often nestles at the foot of these stacks, indicative of the use of even the land between the corn rows.

Old farmhouses, usually of white clapboarding with green shutters and blinds, stand back from the road with their collections of barns, silos, corncribs, and chicken coops near by, conveniently located for service during the long winters when the snow is often deep. In the barnyards at milking time, cattle patiently await the coming of the hired man.

On top of fence or stone wall, a black and white or calico cat dozes peacefully, while a flock of Plymouth Rock hens scratch in the chip dirt near the woodpile. "Fresh Egg" signs swing from fencepost or maple shadetree, inviting the passerby to purchase and replenish the farm woman's slender purse of "pin money".

Chief Anawon's braves once hunted through this district, seeking venison and bear steaks when they tired of a diet of succulent oysters or clams. Sometimes, after the spring plowing, farm lads discover flint and quartz arrowheads, and often the rabbit or pheasant hunter may be seen exercising his dogs in these rolling fields and brushlots.

No longer are the country roads muddy and rutted. The annual funds for dirt road improvements are ample to eliminate the last of the rough, narrow thoroughfares. There are now 27 miles of paved roads in West Haven. The remaining 100 miles of highway are 80 per cent hard surfaced with asphalt and sand. Distances fade before the transportation facilities of the motor age, and already tidy bungalows, erected by people who get their income in the city, are changing the face of the back country.

Rural Connecticut at its best; the metropolitan area at the very gate of the farm country and croplands; expansive views of the Sound from a rolling country that offers good drainage and elevation above the dampness and mists; these are a few features that will influence the growth of inland West Haven. The back country will, one day, become entirely residential, but now the farmer lingers, raising his crop on land close to one of the best markets in the country.

HISTORY OF WEST HAVEN

THE EARLY SETTLEMENT

The history of early West Haven is that of New Haven, for this district was a part of that town until 1822. Then, with North Milford, it was incorporated as the town of Orange. Not until 1921 was West Haven established as a separate town.

Soon after the New Haven settlers had laid out and cleared the original nine squares of their city and erected their houses, they turned their attention to dividing the remainder of the land they had bought from the Indians. The purchases gave them title to land stretching five miles west of the Quinnipiac, in other words, approximately to Cove River and the foot of the present Allingtown Hill. A subsequent purchase from the Indians on May 20, 1645, extended the territory but involved New Haven in a long dispute with Milford, as both claimed to have purchased the same land.

The territory now included in West Haven stretched northward from shore flats of wild, coarse marsh grass rising in gradual slopes to thickly wooded hills. These untouched acres offered great promise to the newcomers. The sea swept into many tiny coves, to join the sweet water of brooks that offered sanctuary to mink, muskrat, and beaver. Where the fresh water diluted the salt, shellfish grew in great abundance and the shallows offered an easy opportunity to set fish traps and pounds. Beyond the marsh lands and the meadows, the dark forest provided game and a sufficient supply of timber for building cabins and ships.

When the first settlers cruised along the shore of the district they discovered a shallow bay where Oyster River empties into the Sound. Partially protected, this bay offered excellent oyster fisheries and soon became a popular spot. Easterly from this little bay, beneath a mantel of living green, stands a guardian group of rocks where the fisherfolk and landmen established a lookout. These rocks were covered by stunted, wind-whipped cedar shrubs and junipers, stubby trees of the type called "savins" in England. Thus, this lookout became "Savin Rock".

Before the white men came to New Haven, the Indians had a settlement at Wigwam Neck on Wigwam Creek, not far from the site of the present West Haven Green. The early Dutch traders came to buy furs and hides at Sandy Point; on the west bank of West River, an extensive shell heap had accumulated from the oyster and clam shells left by Schaghticoke, Podunk, and Tunxis Indians on their annual trips to the shore to feast on shell fish.

New Haven colonists first used their lands in this district as pasturage for their cattle. Along the shore they cut salt hay and harvested oysters and clams.

A footbridge was built over the West River in 1639 to facilitate passage to and from this district, known as West Farms. In 1640, the Colony made the first division of these "common lands" by lot, and the following year a cart-bridge was built over the West River.

THE HISTORY OF THE

REIGN OF

CHARLES THE FIRST

IN WHICH ARE CONTAINED
THE
CAUSES, THE CONDUCT, AND THE
CONSEQUENCES OF THE
WARRE

IN WHICH THE
PARLIAMENTS OF GREAT
BRITAIN HAVE BEEN
DISSOLVED
AND THE
CROWN HAS BEEN
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HISTORY OF WEST HAVEN

First allotments measuring 160 rods inland from the shore front varied in proportion to the wealth and size of each family. The first dwellings were the simple huts of oystermen, farmers, fishermen, and herders. It was recorded in 1646 that Nehemiah Smith promised to care for all of the town sheep in return for the use of certain west-side pasture lands as his own, "where the sheep may have the air of the sea in the summer time". Not until 1648 does history record an actual permanent settlement within the boundaries of the present township.

Although references are made by some historians of New Haven County to shipbuilding on Cove River in the early years of the settlement, neither names of ships nor builders are listed, until after the Revolution and only one is then recorded.

Specific records of the names of the first settlers are also lacking and probably were destroyed during the British raid of 1779, although ecclesiastical records since 1724 are preserved. It is known, however, that George Smith and seven or eight other men and their families built permanent homes in West Farms in 1650, although most of the landowners who had received allotments in 1640 continued to reside in New Haven while they developed their pasture lands here. Among the original settlers were George Lamberton (son of one of the original settlers in New Haven), Thomas Painter, Edward Thomas, Thomas (or Jesse) Stevens, the Gregson, Fowler, Benham, Ward, Clarke, Brown and Thompson families. Subsequently, principal farmers in the town also included James Reynolds, Newton Stephens, Eli Kimberly, Ezra Candee, Nehemiah Kimberly, Albert Candee, Isaac Hine, Joseph Prindle, Captain Ichabod Smith, Captain Anson Clinton, Captain Albert Thomas, and four brothers, Henry, Thomas, Elliott and Jacob Ward.

The most satisfactory income from this area was from oysters and other products of the sea. Shells were burned for lime. White fish were seined for fertilizer and the production of fish oil. Codfish were dried and stored for food. Shipbuilding furnished a market for native lumber, and rocky hillsides supplied pasturage for sheep.

The dispute between New Haven and Milford regarding land boundaries was finally settled by the State Assembly in 1674, when the Oyster River was designated the town line. In 1680, the Third Allotment of New Haven lands included the territory from Malbon's Cove (Cove River) "so along ye sea to oister river and thence upward by Milford Line until they com at Least halfe a mile above ye round hills and thence to turn eastward and lay out unto ye Mill River". In this allotment, veterans of King Philip's War received special consideration and were granted acreage in proportion to their length of service. The lands in the Jones Hill section were held as commons for pasturage and forage. Soon the number of families totaled about 100. Although no detailed historical accounts of that period were made, there is considerable evidence of planning for economical use of land. Road building was an important activity from 1690 to 1720. Pent Road, now First Avenue, was in use in 1687,

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HISTORY OF WEST HAVEN

Savin Avenue (also known as Pent Road) was traveled in 1698; and Cove River Road, now Platt Avenue, was a highway in 1699. The present-day Sawmill Road, Meloy Road, Benham Hill Road, and King's Highway, or Jones Hill Road, follow closely routes of highways or farm roads laid out in the period from 1680-1720.

As the population of New Haven increased, despite a decrease in trade, a number of the village merchants took up lands in West Haven and became farmers. An impelling land hunger among the colonists was evident in the various devices employed by them to secure the more desirable acreage, such as lands near the shore, oyster grounds, and streamside locations best suited for mill sites.

The average West Haven farm was only about twenty acres, and, as the percentage of tillage was very low, no pioneer could possibly support a large family by agricultural activity alone. Beef, pork, mutton and lumber were the money crops, but an effort was made to secure a larger income from various exotic crops such as sorghum, hemp, tobacco, and flax. Today, on the Oyster River, where it crosses the Hubbard Farm, are the stones of an old mill dam used by a flax mill in the early days of the settlement.

Land values during the first hundred years of the occupation of the community now West Haven were governed almost entirely by the location of acreage in relation to the larger settlement of New Haven. Fit for subsistence agriculture and grazing only, limited in actual tillage, and divided into small lots according to the original division of acreage, some of these lands lay fallow for many years, until the growth of population in the parent colony forced men to allot these plots to their sons.

An illustration of the increase in land values may be found in the records of the estate of John Alling, who died in 1691; probate proceedings were filed on March 26 of that year. Thirteen acres of land near West River on the Milford Road were listed at nineteen pounds, ten shillings; three acres north of the road now Derby Avenue were valued at six pounds; forty acres of "third division land" above the present Campbell Avenue and Forest Road were worth but five pounds. In sharp contrast, two acres of "meadow" at Oyster Point were listed at fifteen pounds.

A large portion of this acreage went to Samuel Alling, and, when his estate was settled in 1709, the two acres at Oyster Point had increased to twenty-four pounds value. Thirty-four acres of the "third division lands" were rated at eight pounds, ten shillings; the land on the Milford Road carried a valuation of nine pounds, ten shillings for ten acres; thirty-seven acres of hill lands in the sequestered area were probated at eight shillings an acre.

When Samuel Alling's widow's estate came to Probate Court in 1725, the hill lands were worth a pound, ten shillings an acre, (fifty-three acres, quoted at seventy-five pounds). In 1806, a single acre on West River was valued at fifty dollars, and upland acreage close in was quoted at forty-three dollars.

These lands were in what is now the Allingtown area, far removed from the shore and the present center of West Haven. Land value increases were,

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therefore, normal increases and not influenced by commercial or unusual residential development.

From Colonial days until 1822, West Haven remained a part of New Haven, although strong religious, social, economic, and geographic factors steadily fostered the growth of a separate township. The West River made a natural bound on the east, Oyster River on the west, and Long Island Sound on the south. To the north, a sparsely populated countryside helped to set apart the little village.

As the first town government in New Haven was based on the church, in accordance with the colony's belief that government should closely follow the law of Moses, the "West Farmers" were directly under the jurisdiction of the town of New Haven, until they finally established a church of their own in 1719. Town affairs were settled in the church or "meeting-house" on the New Haven Green, where a word from the pastor was enough to end all discussion.

The Colonial records give a detailed account of the first New Haven town government. As early as 1640, laws were made to regulate commodity prices and the wages of workingmen. Commodities imported from England were "nott to be sold above 3 pence in the shilling for profit and adventure above what they cost with charges" For work which required strength and skill, the wages were set at two shillings, six pence in summer, when "lesse than 10 hours diligently improved in worke cannot be accounted nor may be admitted for a full day's worke". In the winter the pay was two shillings for an eight-hour day.

The control of social conduct was rigid. While the General Court often took over the functions of the magistrates' court, this lack of defined powers in the courts did not prevent a vigorous legal administration. Any lack in the written and in the common law was quickly supplied by the strict religious code, which held that the acts of every individual definitely affected and concerned the whole community. Ordinary gossip was often severely punished. The offenders were publicly rebuked, and, if that was not sufficient deterrent, a fine followed.

On May 7, 1657, one West Haven resident, William Meaker, was accused of practicing black magic, but, when his case came to trial, his accuser, Thomas Mulliner, admitted that he had falsely accused his neighbor. Lieutenant Nash, who appeared in Mulliner's behalf, stated that "he owned that he had defamed William Meaker in laying suspicion of witchcraft upon him and George Smith, in saying that they upheld his servants in lying, which he had no cause to say and therefor is sorry for it and doth free and acquit them and hope it will be a warning to him hereafter".

In the same court, Mr. Mulliner was rebuked for another offense. This time it was for setting his fence "so near the edge of the bank by the sea that when the cattle are betwixt that and the sea, and the tide come in hastily upon them they are in hazard to be drowned as some swine have been, and therefore he has been told it must be removed as also any other set in like manner". Mr.

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Mulliner was constantly before the court on one charge or another and, at last, had to post a bond as a guarantee of his good behavior. His record, as far as West Haven is concerned, ended with a brief court notice of August 2, 1659, stating that he had sold his 170 acres to Thomas Johnson and James Heaton "with dwelling house and rights of commonage". Mr. Mulliner's homestead was near the present corner of Campbell Avenue and Thomas Street. (The right of commonage was a share in the undivided lands the proprietors of the town held in common.)

When the proprietors granted land, there was a definite understanding as to its proposed use, even to the last acre of swamp or boggy meadow. In the court of 1691, a Captain Mansfield, appearing in behalf of Eleazer Beecher, John Benham, and Joseph Prindle, asked for ten acres of swamp near Shingle Hill. After some debate, the town granted the land "to the said three persons provided they fence the said swamp sufficiently and that they improve it for husbandry use within the next three or four years ensuing, otherwise the said swamp return into town property".

When the lands were divided, they were roughly surveyed, and areas or "quarters" were marked. The several districts within the present town limits were known as: Club Field, an area west of Club Creek, now bounded by First Avenue, Campbell Avenue, and Elm Street; Old Field, reaching from Old Field Creek to the present Washington Avenue; Lamberton's Quarter, bounded by the present Elm Street on the north, Brown Street on the south, Kelsey Avenue on the west, and the shore on the south; Suburbs Quarter, bounded on the west by the present First Avenue, on the east by meadowland adjacent to Club Creek, on the south by the present Kimberly Avenue, and on the north by the present Spring Street. Each of these districts had two haywards, whose duties were to supervise the use of the land and to mend defects in fences or to warn owners of "any great breach". Fence viewers marked out the boundary lines and reported these matters to the court. Until churches were built here, tithingmen from New Haven collected the minister's rates, which were the only district taxes for many years.

A rigid social code developed, with sharp lines drawn between the several classes of society. Under this code the various groups or classes had distinctly different rights and duties. Society was then composed of church members and freemen, admitted planters who had taken the oath of fidelity, householders, day laborers, indentured servants and apprentices, and a few Negro slaves.. The group of servants and apprentices caused much trouble in the New Haven Colony with "their coarse, quarrelsome and even beastly practices". It was against this group that much of the early penal law was directed. In general, the inhabitants of "West Farms" were middle class or householders, with few who were very rich or very poor. They had very few servants and, as the bulk of the trade was in New Haven, still fewer apprentices. Most of the "West Farmers" were thrifty, independent people, who became less and less interested in the increasingly complicated affairs of the growing mother town.

of the *Republic of Venice*, from the first settlement of the Venetians in the *Lagoon*, to the present time. The first part of the history, from the settlement of the Venetians to the year 1450, is taken from the *Chronicle of the Venetians*, and the second part, from the year 1450 to the present time, is taken from the *History of the Republic of Venice*, by *Marco Sabellico*.

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As the call for New Haven town meetings was given by drum beat, those living on the outlying farms beyond the sound of the drum often had no knowledge of meetings and soon felt that they had little voice in the affairs of growing New Haven. By 1712 the West Farms group considered itself large enough to start a parish of its own and, on April 29 of that year, petitioned New Haven for separate parish privileges. This petition stressed the increase in population and the distance from their dwellings to the center church. It was claimed that most of them lived "at least six miles from the meeting house". At the same time, great care was taken to profess love and affection for their "brethren" in New Haven; the petitioners made it clear that they desired "to be separate onley as to a ministrey and as to that not for any dislike we have for our worthy pastor" Despite these courteous words, New Haven Colony was well aware that this petition was actually a request for separate village privileges, and the parish had no desire to lose so many members nor the revenue they brought the church. The request was therefore denied. In 1714, the petition was presented to the State Assembly. New Haven argued against it, stating that the West Haven soil was poor and fit for little else "than to bear men, women and children", and asked the Assembly to deny the petition lest the West Haven people "starve instead of promoting themselves and the gospel". In 1715, the Assembly created the parish of West Haven, with bounds which included the present West Haven as well as the Town of Orange. The simple parish government was formally organized in 1719, when it was incorporated by the Assembly. From that date the people of West Haven had control over local matters, and the town government had its real beginning, though still under the watchful eye of New Haven.

The only list preserved of founders of the church and members during the first hundred years is the following list of men who are listed on the church records as contributors toward the support of the church in the period 1733-1739.

"Deacon Thomas Trowbridge	130s.	Joseph Smith	67s.
Peter Roberts	63s.	Joseph Prindle	58s.
Samuel Smith	68s.	Andrew Smith	90s.
Nathaniel Beecher	102s.	Josiah Platt	22s.
Samuel Stevens	53s.	Stephen Bristoll	3s.
Daniel Malory	10s.	John Stephens	5s.
Israel Bunnell	34s.	Samuel Candee, Jr.	3s.
Sam'l Candee	35s.	Roger Alling, Jr.	5s.
Ebenezer Smith	81s.	George Clinton	5s.
Samuel Downs	83s.	Japhet Benham	5s.
Joseph Thompson	66s.	Deliverance Painter	5s.
Sam'l Humpherville	115s.	Nathaniel Smith	2s.
Daniel Clark	45s.	Shuball Painter	5s.
John Benham	80s.	Sam'l Sherman	11s.
Thomas Painter	83s.	Thomas Painter, Jr.	11s.
Nathaniel Kimberly	67s.	Jonathan Smith	22s.
Eliphalet Bristol	44s."		

In 1723, an Episcopal Church Society was organized, and an Episcopal Church was erected in 1739-40.

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For the next 50 years, the First Society managed local government without much change in procedure. The two main items of expense were the support of the churches and the schools. From meetings of these societies, the town meeting developed.

Apparently no record exists of the date of erection of the first schoolhouse in West Haven, but a school stood on the Green prior to March 2, 1729, when it was mentioned in the records of the Ecclesiastical Society of the First Congregational Church. Built of logs, with a bark roof and a dirt floor, the building was heated by an open fireplace. Larded paper was used in place of glass windows; benches, or boards placed on pegs, were the pupils' seats. Books were few, and birchbark or slates were often used as substitutes for paper.

The young people of Colonial New Haven, of which West Haven was a part, had educational advantages over scholars in other New England communities because of the thorough planning of the colony's founders, Davenport and Eaton. Some historians claim that the school system established there surpassed even the facilities offered by the lower schools of Old England. This system was founded on three fundamental principles; the absolute freedom of elementary education, compulsory schooling for all children, and at least a partial support of educational facilities by the public.

According to Jurisdiction Records of 1661, a schoolmaster of the period was paid a total of 60 pounds per annum; the majority of these payments were made in produce, as follows: 30 bushels of wheat, 2 barrels of pork, 2 barrels of beef, 40 bushels of Indian corn, 30 bushels of pease, 2 firkins of butter, 100 pounds of flax, and 30 bushels of miscellaneous foods.

Towns were the original school units, but, as scattered communities grew up, outlying parishes, in 1712, were given authority to conduct schools of their own. In 1717, parishes were allowed to levy taxes and choose their own school officers, and, in 1766, townships were subdivided into school districts. In 1746, funds for the support of the school were raised by the sale of town lands, and the town voted that the amount of 328 pounds, 5 shillings, and 10 pence be approved for the year "until the end of time, unless the government ordered to the contrary". In that year, a school tax of one load of wood or its equivalent was levied for each pupil.

In 1771, one of West Haven's most famous hostelries opened at Hill's Homestead, in the area now known as Savin Rock. This old inn became a rendezvous for fishermen, travelers, seamen, and various characters of the Revolutionary War Period who frequented the West Haven shore. All cooking was done in a Dutch oven built in a cook-shed at the rear of the inn; this crude method of food preparation continued in use until 1918. Lobsters, chicken, clams, oysters, and the deep-dish apple and pumpkin pies so highly prized by the patrons of this seaside hotel were done to a turn in the glowing cavern of this old oven. The epicures and gourmands of the Connecticut shore drove many miles to secure a dinner at the Hill's Homestead. This inn is still in operation.

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REVOLUTIONARY WAR

AND

THE BRITISH RAIDS

When war with Great Britain was declared, the little settlement raised its quota of militiamen for the Continental Line. Thomas Painter (1760-1847) was one of West Haven's most adventurous sons. His birthplace at 255 Main Street still stands; the date of 1695 on the base of the stone chimney has been questioned by various antiquarians, who sometimes even identify the house as of 1685 construction. When he was but 15, Thomas Painter enlisted in the Revolutionary Army, which he soon left for the privateer service. Thrice captured, a cannoneer in Captain Phineas Bradley's artillery company during the defense of West Haven on the morning of July 5, 1779, Painter wrote many thrilling tales of his adventures in his *Autobiography*. After his war service, he entered the West Indies trade. His account of the building of the ship *Hannah* on the Cove River after the Revolution is the only record that names a specific ship built there.

On July 5, 1779, forty-eight vessels, including the *Camilla* and *Scorpion*, British men-of-war, with accompanying tenders and transports, under the command of Commodore Sir George Collier, dropped anchor off the West Haven shore. The fleet carried about 3,000 infantrymen under Major General Tryon for an attack upon New Haven, and from this force a party of some 1,500 men under Brigadier General Garth landed at sunrise at "Old Field Shore" (now Savin Rock) to ravage the countryside, according to the rules and discipline of war. A tablet now marks the landing place of this British force.

The town was thoroughly alarmed. The aged and infirm were carried to places of safety, and the able-bodied men were mustered and armed. The West Bridge was taken up, and several field pieces put into position behind hastily constructed barricades on the left bank. As the invaders marched through West Haven, the advance guard of two companies of light infantry met some twenty-five armed civilians and drove those courageous citizens back toward Milford Hill. There, supported by the main body of defending citizenry, a counter attack forced the British skirmishers to retreat. They fell back upon the British main body, which advanced through the town with flankers thrown out and protected by two light field pieces. Meanwhile the Colonial field guns in action at the bridge kept up an harassing fire. When British scouts reported the formation of a line of resistance at the bridge, the raiders chose another entrance to New Haven, going nine miles around the barricades to enter the Elm City by way of the Derby Pike.

The party on Milford Hill, increased to about 150 by reinforcements from several companies of militia, engaged the British left flank throughout the morning. Gradually, the townsfolk were driven back, and between 12 and 1 o'clock the British entered New Haven.

One of the dramatic incidents of that morning was the single-handed attempt of Professor Naphtali Daggett, former president of Yale, to block the

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advance of the British Army. As described by Elizur Goodrich, a Yale student who was present at the time, "I well remember the surprise we felt . . . as we were marching over West Bridge toward the enemy, to see Dr. Daggett riding furiously by us on his old black mare, with his long fowling-piece in his hand ready for action. We knew the old gentleman had studied the matter thoroughly and satisfied his own mind as to the right and propriety of fighting it out; but we were not quite prepared to see him come forth in so gallant a style to carry his principles into practice. Giving him a hearty cheer as he passed, we turned down toward West Haven, at the foot of Milford hills, while he ascended a little to the west, and took his station in a copse of wood where he seemed to be reconnoitering the enemy, like one who was determined to 'bide his time'. . . . We suddenly found ourselves involved with the main body, and in danger of being surrounded. It was now our time to run, and we did for our lives. Passing Dr. Daggett in his station on the hill, we retreated rapidly across West Bridge. . . . Dr. Daggett . . . stood his ground manfully while the British column advanced along the foot of the hill, determined to have the battle himself, as we had left him in the lurch—using his fowling piece now and then to excellent effect, as occasion offered, under cover of the bushes. But this could not last long. A detachment was sent up the hill-side to look into the matter; and the commanding officer, coming suddenly, to his great surprise, on a single individual in a black coat, blazing away in this style, cried out, 'What are you doing there, you old fool, firing on His Majesty's troops?'"

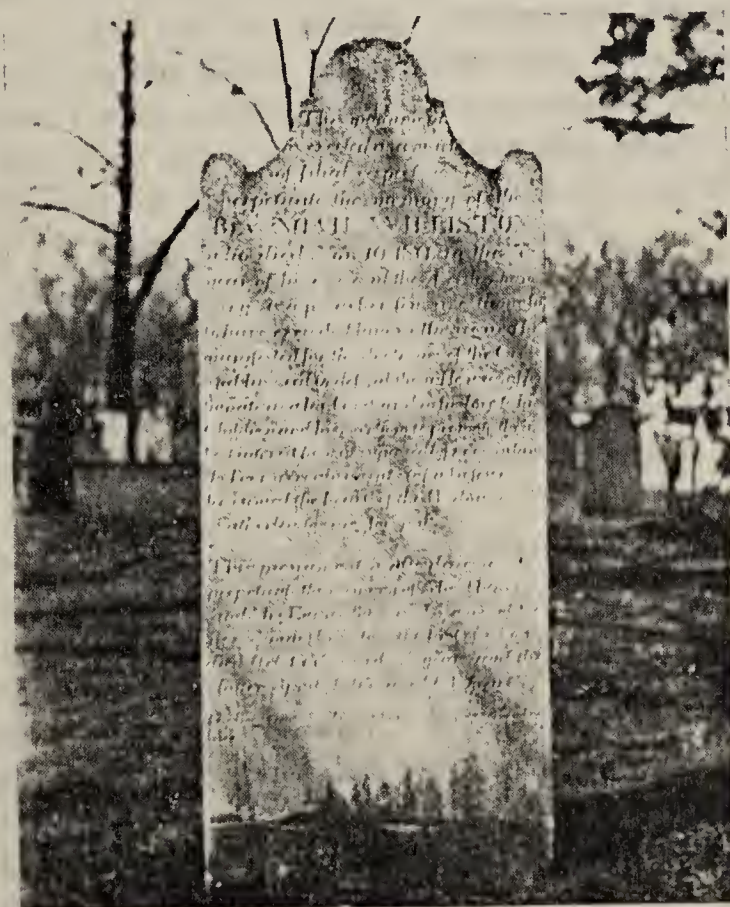
"'Exercising the rights of war', says the old gentleman. 'The very audacity of the remark, and the mixture of drollery it contained, seemed to amuse the officer. 'If I let you go this time, you rascal', says he, 'will you ever fire again on the troops of His Majesty?' 'Nothing more likely', said the old gentleman in his dry way." Angered, the British dragged him to the head of their column and drove him ahead of them at bayonet's point all the way to the New Haven Green, where a Tory who had been a former student interceded for his life.

West Haven homes were plundered, and clothing, bedding, provisions, shoe buckles, plate, and watches were taken by the raiders. In some homes, household furniture was destroyed. British casualties are not recorded, but 27 Americans were killed and 19 wounded.

An incident of the invasion is commemorated by a monument on Milford Hill to Adjutant Campbell, one of the British raiders killed during the action in the Allingtown district. Early in the day, the Adjutant saved the life of the Reverend Mr. Williston, who, in attempting to hide the church records, fell while climbing a fence and broke a leg. The Adjutant restrained his men from killing the aged preacher and ordered a British surgeon to set Williston's leg. Several hours later, Campbell received a mortal wound and was left to die near the West River. He was carried to a near-by house by sympathetic residents, who bound up his wounds and later buried him beside the road. The grave was marked by a stone with the inscription, "Campbell, 1779", which was later replaced by the monument.



Memorial to Adjutant William Campbell;
Erected Near the Spot Where He Was Killed



Memorial to Rev. Noah Williston;
Pastor of Congregational Church During Revolutionary War

HISTORY OF WEST HAVEN

When the British fleet lay at anchor off the Old Field Shore on that Fourth of July, 1779, a few people in the little village of West Haven were glad to see the British troops. One of these Tory sympathizers was Joseph Prindle, the warden of Christ Episcopal Church on the West Haven Green. He lived at a place called "Half Way Hill", or "Prindle Hill", a farm on the Milford-New Haven road which afforded a good view of the harbor. From that vantage point, he was probably one of the first to see the enemy ships and it is not hard to imagine him standing on his hilltop, smiling with pride and satisfaction at the site of the King's fleet. According to a story handed down through generations of the Prindle family, two of the Prindle boys, probably Joseph and Stephen, carried fresh beef to the British immediately after the fleet anchored. When this became known in the village, an angry group of residents came up to the Prindle Farm to arrest the boys. They were met with the calm response that the boys were there or had been there but a short time before. While the house was being searched, the boys escaped to the woods; the incident was apparently forgotten in the excitement of the fighting and pillaging of the next day.

THE SECOND BRITISH RAID

After that first attack on West Haven, anxious eyes often searched Long Island Sound in dread of enemy ships, but no one saw the approach of three armed British ships that anchored off West Haven shore shortly after midnight on August 30, 1781. One hundred and fifty men landed, secured the guard, and proceeded to raid the town, so quietly that residents were not aware of their presence in time to call out the militia. Deliverance Painter, David Johnson, Allen Smith, and Captain Catlin were seized and taken aboard a brig, which capsized. Captain Catlin survived, but his companions were drowned. Thirty head of cattle and some other possessions were also taken by the enemy. Sufferers in both this and the previous raid were later allowed an abatement of taxes and damages by the Connecticut General Assembly.

Subsequently, several smaller British and Tory raids were made along the West Haven shore, but little damage was done, and the invaders confined their efforts to procuring livestock and rations. The town responded to the Colonial demands for man power by raising several companies of militia, and the women at home took care of the farms during the absence of their soldier sons and husbands.

On March 13, 1782, General Andrew Ward, Colonel Edward Russel, and Gideon Buckingham, a committee appointed by the General Assembly, met at West Haven to estimate the losses suffered by each individual who sustained damages during the British raid, to take their depositions under oath, and to report back to the General Assembly. When the committee made their report to the Assembly, they recommended that tax abatements of £30: 15: 2. be allowed the West Haven sufferers, and that cash damages of £365: 18: 6. be recognized. Liberty of a bill to make proper adjustment of this account was granted, and the report was accepted without change. Depositions and the lists of damages were ordered lodged in the file of the General Assembly.

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At the close of the war, James Blakeslee Reynolds opened a tavern in the former home of Lamberton Painter, near the present corner of Campbell Avenue and Main Street, which soon became the general meeting place of the villagers who stopped "to pass the time of day" and discuss the affairs of town, church, and school. In the autumn, when the harvesting was finished, the country people from outlying sections came into town to dig clams and to celebrate. According to an old diary, "They sang in the streets and lounged about on the Green. At night they raided the fruit trees in the neighborhood. It used to be said that the clambers were more to be dreaded than the Indians". These unwelcome visitors were contemptuously called "gypsies" by local residents who suffered their depredations.

By this time, most West Haven residents believed their interests would best be served by a separate town government, although purely local matters were in fact directed by the local ecclesiastical society. A typical society meeting of this period was held January 1, 1783, at the home of Captain Samuel Candee. This meeting voted to give the Reverend Williston 40 loads of wood to make up 10 pounds of his salary, and to lay a rate of 2 pence on the pound (on the property list) to be paid in wood or cash by the 1st of March; also to lay a rate of 4½ pence on the pound for Mr. Williston. At that meeting it was also recorded:—"Whereas Lamberton Painter some years ago recd the school money to take care of for the benefit of said school and through his neglect or some other way lost the sume of —, Proposed the Society lose the same or give it to him—Voted that they would not." (Records show that Mr. Lamberton later paid the sum to the society.)

The first city election held in New Haven, February 10, 1784, showed that about one-third of the freemen of the city were residents of West Haven. At that time there were 600 adult males living within New Haven limits. Of this number, 343 were freemen, and more than 100 of these freemen were residents of West Haven. Fortified by this show of strength, West Haven petitioned for a town charter in 1785, was denied, and again petitioned in 1787. On both occasions, New Haven and Milford voiced strong opposition before the Assembly, claiming that the creation of a new town would deprive them of some of their lands and thus weaken them politically and economically. New Haven also argued that it was contrary to good policy to create towns so small that the governing power would undoubtedly be weakened hence more liable to suffer disorders.

WAR OF 1812

During the War of 1812, West Haven residents were constantly in fear of British raids. Recalling the damage done by the enemy in 1779 and 1781, the local authorities sought to be prepared in the event the British returned. Young Lyman Prindle was chosen to watch for the enemy fleet. Stationed on the hilltop owned by his father, he was equipped with a spy glass and a barrel of tar, which he was instructed to burn when he saw enemy vessels approaching. The threatened raid never occurred, but, as the story goes, Lyman burned the

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tar when the war ended. The people in the Dogman Road section, who had not heard the news, saw the warning signal and, believing that the British were approaching, threw their silver spoons into the wells.

After the war, agitation for the establishment of a separate town was renewed, but it was not until 1822 that the societies of West Haven and North Milford (from New Haven and Milford) united and won from the legislature the right to form a separate township. Much controversy attended the selection of a name. Some residents wanted to call the new town Milford Haven, some Westford (from *West Side* and *Milford*), others preferred Millhaven or Mill Haven. The name Orange was finally selected in honor of William III, Prince of Orange, the sovereign whose kindly reign brought many benefits to the Colonies.

The first meeting of the town of Orange was held on the second Monday in June, 1822, in the North Milford meeting-house rather than in West Haven, because a majority of the inhabitants then lived in the outlying districts. John Bryan, Jr., Thomas Painter, Ichabod A. Woodruff, Aaron Thomas, Jr., and Lyman Law were elected selectmen. Nathan Clark was named treasurer, and Benjamin L. Lambert, town clerk.

More excitement than had been experienced during the war stirred West Haven one Sabbath night in January, 1823, when an opened grave was discovered in West Haven cemetery. After a search, the sheriff's posse found the missing body of a young woman mutilated and concealed in the cellar of the Yale Medical School at the corner of Church and Grove streets in New Haven. The body was transferred to a wagon for return to its proper resting place. As the wheels rolled slowly along, a gathering crowd of townsfolk from New Haven and West Haven followed; bells tolled dolefully, as the procession wended its way back to the graveyard. The crowd increased, and angry speeches were made condemning "the criminals".

As darkness fell on January 14, 1823, a mob, including angry men from as far away as Milford, gathered, determined to take the law into their own hands, and marched on the college. The faculty called on the civil authorities to protect the lives and property of the offenders, but the police were as powerless as they were unsympathetic. The militia was ordered out, but they also failed to control the crowd. Students cowered behind the stone walls of the Medical School in a state of siege and prayed for succor.

At this critical moment, the Governor's Foot Guard was summoned to quell the riot. Accompanied by drummers who beat the quickstep, this elite military organization proceeded at great speed to the scene of disorder, issued ball cartridges, and fixed bayonets. Within a short time, Benedict Arnold's old command soon had the situation in hand; the Medical School was saved, and the ugly mob withdrew into the darkness.

Night after night, indignant West Haven men reassembled, but, each time they approached the grim stone buildings of the Medical School, they found the Foot Guard still walking post. New Haven was under modified martial law

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for several nights, and the college area was declared "out of bounds" for civilians. A curfew was strictly enforced, and military patrols tramped their stern way through the "City of Elms".

The student who actually robbed the grave fled the city during the confusion, but his accomplice, a servant without funds, turned State's evidence against him. The servant was imprisoned.

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

The embargoes and curtailment of imports during the War of 1812 had created a demand for the products of the little backyard shops that had begun to make goods for home consumption or for barter and trade with their neighbors. The industrial growth of the town was like that of scores of other communities in the State of Connecticut, where Yankee ingenuity and thrift combined to produce consumer goods, specialties, and a payroll for the citizens. Long before the machine age, the groundwork of superior craftsmanship had been established by the local specialists who worked in wood and metals. Father taught son, and thus families became known for their particular specialties, just as certain business houses are known today.

The clock-menders, tinkers, tailors, net-menders, and sheep-shearers were usually itinerants who made their rounds on seasonal schedule. West Haven shoemakers had permanent locations and traveled but little outside their own parish, taking their cue from the cobblers of Milford just to the southwest, who, by 1845, had placed Milford fourth in Connecticut as a shoe-producing center. Newton Stevens (1784-1866), a shoemaker who was an ardent Congregationalist, tried to convert all of his 20 apprentices, much to the alarm of Dr. Bela Hubbard, rector of Trinity Episcopal Church in New Haven. The Stevens shop was a fairly large establishment with several fully trained cobblers as well as the apprentices. Starting in 1838 and continuing operations until 1880, Allen Northrop and his eldest son, George, made shoes in one of the rooms of their house. Gamaliel Painter was one of the community's most famous shoemakers. After he served his apprenticeship to Nehemiah Smith here, he became a traveling craftsman who journeyed far. He finally settled in Middlebury, Vermont, where he became the owner of considerable land and, in 1800, founded Middlebury College.

The excellent grazing lands of West Haven supported sizable herds of cattle, and tanneries converted the hides into leather for shoes and harness. With an assured leather supply at hand, a market close by at New Haven, and with the Milford cobblers ready to train young men in their craft simply for the work they might accomplish during their four-year apprenticeship, the West Haven shoe industry enjoyed almost a half-century of prosperity.

As in all Colonial settlements, the purely domestic types of industry, the weaving, sowing, candle and soap making, and the spinning of flax, were so efficiently managed by the housewives that for generations every home was an almost self-sufficient entity. Homespun, dyed with the juices of native herbs

and roots, was woven and stored away in the great pine chests against the coming of the tailor.

Like most Connecticut seaside communities, West Haven, too, had dreams of commerce and of great ships that would span the ocean and bring prosperity to the little seacoast village. The settlement had an agricultural surplus, her forests produced staves and planking in sufficient quantities for export, and the residents needed sugar and molasses to sweeten cornbread, as well as spices from the east. Shipwrights sought deep-water shore-sites for their shipways, and lumbermen scoured the forests for oaken timber for ship's knees, planking, and solid keels.

Farmers sometimes bought shares in the schooners, scows, and sloops built in West Haven yards. Country boys developed sea legs on slippery decks of homemade vessels in the fishing or oystering trade and, if they survived, sometimes shipped before the mast for adventure in the West Indies trade or on coast-wise ships to Boston. Local blacksmiths learned to forge marine fittings and tools in demand by the shipbuilding trade. Carpenters, adept at framing houses and barns, learned how to step a mast and discovered that swinging either adze or broadaxe for ship-timber production was simply a question of acquired skill, as in other lines of their craft.

Some blacksmiths scorned the production of ship's hardware and specialized in making ox carts and, later, carriages.

When silkworm culture and the planting of mulberry trees was subsidized by the state (1793), West Haveners enthusiastically attempted to make the huge profits promised, but with no better results than achieved in other sections. In the yard of the T. J. Warner house, on Jones Hill Road, built in the early eighteenth century, stands an old mulberrytree, reputed to bear nine different kinds of leaves. Planted by some hopeful reader of "The Silk Growers' Manual" (1838), this gnarled giant remains as a reminder of the days when Connecticut people dreamed of a bonanza created by a tiny, ugly worm.

Early fisheries were conducted by individuals who sought fish for food and fertilizer. About 1840, local men banded together in co-operative fisheries, and in 1850 gave up hauling seines and set a fish pound. On June 26, 1850, a phenomenal catch of drumfish was made. By 1860, the fishing co-operative had disbanded, and only a few individuals remained in the business. Homer Smith and his associate bought the seine house and went into the fish business on the Oyster River.

About 1850, tobacco was grown in West Haven on the old Tyler estate owned by N. Tyler and P. B. Tyler, sometimes known as "Tyler's Grove". About five acres were planted, sheds were built, and the experiment continued for several years. But West Haven soils were not favorable to tobacco culture; the Tylers gave up tobacco growing and planted other crops.

In this colony, where builders imported bricks from England, every effort was made to develop brick production from local clay. As early as 1651, records mentioned exploration for clay, and a highway description written in 1713 men-

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tions clay pits in the vicinity of Shingle Hill, but as the clay pits were few and shallow, only local supplies of brick were ever produced. From 1850 until after the Civil War, one John Haynes operated a brickyard near Jones Hill but the clay ran out and the business died.

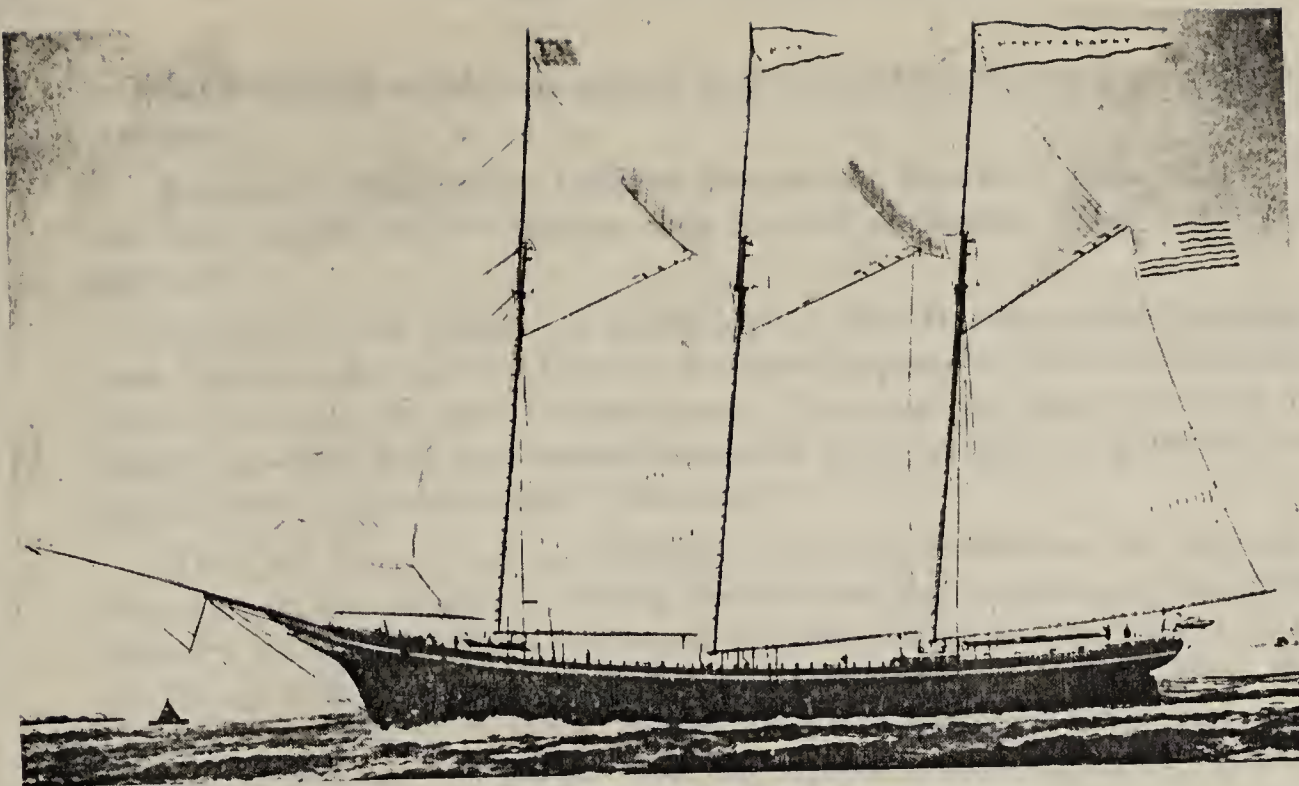
During the decade 1840-50, sea sand, which in the early days had been used by colonial housewives for covering for their floors and was later mixed with lime for mortar, was used in the local manufacture of sandpaper and other abrasives. Small industries slowly developed. In the year 1845, there were within the town of Orange two woolen mills, which employed nine men and seven women, producing flannel, satinet and woolen yarn; six plough factories, one comb factory (employing one man); two flour mills, employing two men each; and 160,000 bricks were locally produced. A town inventory of that year lists 786 sheep, 146 horses, 1,116 "neat" cattle, 730 swine, 8,183 bushels of Indian corn, 1,940 tons of hay, 598 bushels of buckwheat, 3,055 pairs of boots and shoes made, 2,632 bushels of fruit, 55,708 pounds of butter, 6,491 pounds of cheese and 137 pounds of honey, 200 tons of ship timber, and 721 cords of fire wood.

In common with other residents of Connecticut, the people of West Haven believed that valuable mineral deposits were undoubtedly hidden away beneath the soil. Dr. Eneas Muson reported to Yale students in 1807 that an Englishman had worked a silver mine on the Derby Turnpike prior to the outbreak of the Revolutionary War. In 1818, David Lambert reported the discovery of copper and silver in paying quantities in a ledge near the Milford town line. Before mining operations were started or any ore delivered to the stamp mills, a company was formed and prospectors swarmed over the countryside. According to legend, Mr. Lambert made his discovery while fox hunting, and the pelt proved to be worth more than the ore.

Some authorities mention the presence of galena in the area, and others state that the New York Mining Company traced a vein of that ore to the parent ledge. Copper pyrites appears in West Haven rocks, and asbestos has been reported as abundant in the serpentine rocks in the northern section of the town.

The Orange Copper Mining Company, operating in 1856, sunk shafts 30 feet and discovered a 2 foot lode of galena. One specimen analysed was purported to contain 15 ounces of silver to the ton and 62 per cent lead. The sample was evidently not "mine run", for operation of the mine failed to pay.

About the middle of the nineteenth century, town roads were greatly improved to meet the demands of the growing community, which had developed to such an extent that a female academy was established on the thoroughfare now Savin Avenue. The year 1849 was eventful: Steam railway service was established, and the town was proud of a crude platform that served as a station beside the right-of-way; the first post office here was opened, and, during a building boom of modest proportions, the H. H. Richard Lumber Company was organized. The Congregational Church was sufficiently prosperous to build a new structure, and the old one was converted into a public meeting hall and store. In 1855, a stage ran between New Haven and West Haven but soon afterward was replaced



The "Harry A. Barry", Three-Masted Schooner;
Launched in West Haven, November 25, 1880



Mill on Old Hubbard Farm, Erected in 1862,
and Used to Refine Sorghum During the Civil War

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by a horse railway, which was opened in 1869 when the Kimberly Avenue bridge was built.

Improved transportation facilities fostered the growth of industry. In 1853, the West Haven Buckle Company was founded to produce buckles and similar specialties.

In 1861, W. M. Gessner, a shipbuilder of Fair Haven on the Quinnipiac in New Haven, established the Gessner and Mar Shipyard on the thoroughfare now Water Street, at the end of Main Street. Two shipways here converted native lumber into three and four-masted schooners of about 200 feet in length, with a displacement of approximately 1,500 tons.

The Civil War period was marked by patriotic enthusiasm, recruitment, improved trade, and sacrifices. During the war-time sugar shortage, John Hubbard erected a mill about a quarter mile east of Oyster River, off the Jones Hill Road, for the purpose of refining sorghum juice as a sugar substitute. West Haven, Orange and Milford residents bought the local sorghum syrup and paid an average of 50 cents per gallon. The mill operated until 1883, and the building still stands.

The first horse-drawn street cars connected West Haven Center with New Haven in 1867 and extended service to Savin Rock a few years later. This early transportation aided greatly in the growth of the community, increased realty values, and made the citizens proud of their modern facilities.

The sandy beach at Savin Rock furnished recreational opportunities for the citizens of the community who bathed, dug clams, or fished for harbor bluefish. The Grove, just behind the eminence of the "Rock", was the scene of many picnics, camping expeditions, and reunions, but it was not until the 1870's that a mechanical concession was first erected on this natural playground. A small man-power carrousel, the forerunner of the many electrically operated and resplendent "rides" of the present day, creaked its laborious way around a track not unlike that at the old sorghum mill.

Ferry service to and from Savin Rock to New Haven and to Lighthouse Point started in 1870, when the late George Kelsey erected a 1,500-foot pier and operated several small steamers. When the contract for the pier was completed by Charles R. Waterhouse, a spectacular test of its stability was conducted by the Second Regiment of Connecticut militia who marched over it. The command, "Route Order!" was given to prevent too much vibration from the rhythm of marching feet.

By 1873, the Town of Orange had a population of 2,800. The early picture had changed; a majority of the residents lived in and about the center of the present West Haven. The growing village felt the need for better roads, street lighting, police and fire protection, and, when improved facilities were not provided complained that the rural town government could no longer efficiently provide for the needs of the village. In response to demands of the residents, the General Assembly created the Borough of West Haven in May, 1873. Borough

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territory stretched from the Post Road to the Cove River and covered a little more than the present first taxation district. Borough government was administered by a warden and a board of burgesses. The selectmen continued at the head of the town government.

Both the town and the borough levied taxes. The borough supported the fire and the police departments and paid for public improvements within the borough limits; the town maintained the schools and supervised road work.

Frequent controversies arose between town and borough. The "Upper Section", as the total area of Orange was called, claimed that the borough was the cause of high taxes, and the borough residents were convinced that their civic development had little in common with the outlying farm section, where the people were determined to keep their local government simple and inexpensive.

During this period, oyster culture was becoming more and more important as an economic factor, and many other small industries were developing. Numerous carriage shops, of which the S. H. Bishop Company was the most important, built heavy drays and custom-built carriages with all the accessories. A local invention, the Bishop Adjustable Carriage Pole, was made and sold to many other carriage manufacturers. The Bishop shop at the foot of North Union Avenue ceased operations after a destructive fire in 1894.

About 1875, the Mathusek Piano Company (formerly Parmelee Piano Company) moved from New Haven to West Haven and employed a considerable number of hands at its factory at Campbell Avenue and Brown Street. The firm produced from 40 to 60 instruments each month, until it moved to New York in 1913. According to tradition, Mr. Parmelee, once owner of this company, designed and installed in his factory the first automatic sprinkler system to operate successfully anywhere in the United States. After the piano company moved to New York, the plant was used by the Avis Manufacturing Company, manufacturers of gun barrels for military arms.

Meanwhile, Savin Rock was becoming more and more popular as a recreational center for the people of western Connecticut. Promoters chose the location for cock fights, horse races, and prize fights. Excursions ran to the seaside resort from near-by cities, and conventions were held in the Grove. The tables beneath the trees were always crowded, and the beer gardens served capacity crowds almost every week-end through the season.

The first "flying horses" at Savin Rock were originated by Charles Hagar, an early concessionaire, who operated in the Grove in 1878. Hagar's horses, of light construction and portable, were frequently transported to country fairs and other resorts on a wheeled cart. Motive power was supplied by a man who propelled the apparatus by means of a rope. Julius Lambert purchased Hagar's outfit in 1879, leased space from the Winchester Railway Company, and operated there for several years. As Lambert's business grew, he replaced the man-power outfit with a horse-power arrangement — a treadmill with a belt drive, operated by a small chestnut horse, who acquired local fame because of his fondness for chewing tobacco.

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A 40-foot tower at the top of the slope at Savin Rock was used as an observatory until it burned in 1897. Contemporary reports of the period state that crowds of as many as 50,000 people visited the resort in a single week-end.

From 1880 to 1893, local shipbuilding enjoyed its most prosperous period and during that time became the town's most important industry. The business prospered until local forests were exhausted. Shipwrights, usually from Nova Scotia, were quartered in a large boarding house near the shipyards. Within the 13 years of the yard's peak activity, 14 three and four-masted schooners were launched. Each launching was the signal for a holiday, and the entire town turned out to cheer the brave new hull as she slid down the ways. Skippers who sailed West Haven vessels brought back many tales of exploit and adventure that have been handed down to the younger generation of steam sailors. Captain Robert Ives commanded the *James Ives*, a three-master, displacing 1,450 tons, launched here on November 29, 1883, and also the *Charles F. Tuttle*, a three-masted schooner of 1,506 tons, launched June 12, 1886. Captain Ives, after many voyages along the Atlantic coast and around the Horn, succeeded to the command of the Maine-built four-master, *John H. Platt*, of 1,800 tons. The Captain promised to take his family with him on one voyage and chose the year 1898 to keep the promise. The *John H. Platt*, with the skipper's wife and child aboard, was proceeding under ballast to Brunswick, Georgia, for a load of cotton, when she ran into a hurricane and foundered, November 12, 1898. All hands were lost.

Some other West Haven ships were unlucky. During the period when marine architects were adding every inch of sail that a vessel could carry, the *Florida*, built at local yards, had such heavy topwork that she capsized when launched. The *James D. Dewell* left West Haven shortly after her launching in 1882, bound for the West Indies for cargo. Off the New Jersey coast, she ran into a gale and went aground on Ocean Grove Beach, N. J. She was never refloated but served as a resort attraction for many years.

On the morning of July 21, 1891, the *Lucinda K. Sutton* slid majestically down the ways, with Captain O'Brien at the helm. Bands blared and the crowds cheered. The decks of the vessel were bright with the gay dresses of the belles of West Haven, and an atmosphere of gaiety extended even to the shipwrights who knocked away the blocking and scurried for safety. The time for launching had been set without proper allowance for the tide, which was then low, and the deck load was so heavy that the ship stuck fast on a mud bank as soon as she left the ways.

The *Lyman W. Law*, a West Haven four-master of 1,690 tons, was launched August 28, 1890. This vessel carried many cargoes to and from Europe until 1917, when, under the command of Captain Blake, she was one of the merchant vessels sunk by Germany just prior to the United States' entry into the World War. Carrying a cargo of citrus fruits, she was destroyed off the coast of Spain.

With the depletion of local timber and the coming of steam, West Haven shipbuilding declined. The first reduction in activity was the change from sloop

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and schooner designs to barge construction. Finally the yards turned to repair work and refitting and, eventually, to the building of pleasure craft.

Although West Haven lost its importance as a shipbuilding center, it retained its supremacy as a shore resort. Savin Rock grew by leaps and bounds. A concessionaire known as "Skeele" operated the leading restaurant, bath house, and pier, and the lights were never dim at his establishment. Clam chowder and roast clams were favorite dishes, and the "shore dinner" was popularized. People made annual pilgrimages to Skeele's, just as the Indians formerly came down "to salt".

Frank Wilcox, one of the pioneers in shore amusement, who had once peddled peanuts and operated the Venetian Swings and flying horses, purchased Skeele's in 1900 and enlarged it several times, until it now accomodates 1,000 diners. The 50 cent and 75 cent dinners served became famous along the entire New England coast. Here, the first American installation of self-operating doors swung before a waitress with loaded tray in April, 1931. The Stanley Works made the hardware for this installation, and Wilcox's became the field laboratory for self-operating doors controlled by the photoelectric cell. Frank Wilcox, master host, died in 1928, but the business still endures.

Following the pattern established by the Colonial industrialists, West Haven manufacturers have continued to diversify in a number of different types of industrial enterprises. An abundant supply of semi-skilled labor has helped local factories to prosper. Many of the present-day industries moved from New Haven and other cities to this suburb, to benefit by the lower taxes; many founded in the late nineteenth century are among the town's leading industries today. Among such firms was the American Buckle Company, founded in Middletown in 1843 and reorganized and moved to West Haven in 1885.

Low taxes were notable in the Borough of West Haven during those years when industry was seeking factory sites and feeling the first powerful surge of mass production and heavy profits. In 1888, the borough levied a five mill tax, and the economical rural government of Orange Township added only ten mills. The Grand List of the Borough was a conservative \$1,641,570, and the *State Register and Manual* of that year noted the beginning of "manufacturing to some extent at West Haven".

Rail transportation, horsecars that provided service for workers going to and from their tasks, and the lack of crowding in housing facilities were favorable factors in the growth of West Haven industry. Near by, at Savin Rock, sandy beaches and picnic areas offered recreational opportunity, and the farmers from the Town of Orange were always ready to deliver firewood, produce, and milk at reasonable prices. The factory hand enjoyed a better living in West Haven than in many of the larger cities; the factory owner could depend upon an abundant labor supply. Small wonder that manufacturing flourished here.

In the last quarter of the nineteenth century, many pretentious and luxurious homes were erected here by wealthy New Haven men. Most spectacular and typical of the period was the Waddingham Mansion (since destroyed by fire) on



Old Savin Rock House, a Famous West Shore Hostelry,
Destroyed by Fire in 1870



"Lovers' Lane", Savin Rock, in 1900;
The Hill is known as "Savin Rock Proper".

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Elm Street. Wilson Waddingham, a millionaire, who had been a day laborer until his discovery of a gold mine in the Black Hills, was subsequently a partner in the famous Emma Mine. His West Haven residence was built by dividends paid by the mine.

Doors and walls were of solid mahogany, with panels of highly polished curly maple. Ceilings were decorated with portraits of Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin, Andrew Jackson, Abraham Lincoln, John C. Calhoun, and Robert E. Lee. On the walls of the billiard room, 12 large paintings depicted dramatic scenes from American history. Decorative tiles, beneath the windows, illustrated Sir Walter Scott's works, Mother Goose rhymes, and the signs of the zodiac. The inlaid floor of this room was composed of 8,000 separate pieces. Elaborate chandeliers of hammered bronze were wrought by distinguished European craftsmen.

THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

The turn of the century brought industrial progress and a new civic consciousness to West Haven. A number of New Haven industries, seeking lower tax rates, moved to West Haven, where they could enjoy as good transportation facilities and, at the same time, have close at hand the semiskilled laborers, who had been attracted to New Haven during the Spanish War boom and, in large numbers, had settled in West Haven.

West Haven became sports-conscious about the beginning of the century. The baseball park at Savin Rock was patronized by thousands of fans who followed the fortunes of the New Haven teams in the State and the Eastern leagues. At night, the "Rock" was a brilliant blaze against the sky and an esplanade of gaiety. Many famous restaurants and hotels opened for business, each with its own particular clientele. Sportsmen, boxers, ball players, actors, and the various entertainers made their headquarters at Savin Rock.

In 1901, Mr. Albert Widmann obtained a charter from the General Assembly for a daily ferry service between Savin Rock and Lighthouse Point. Five vessels were put into operation, and two piers were built; the service was conducted for thirty-three years without a single accident.

When the last horsecar went into the barn, and a clanging, electrically operated street car arrived at Savin Rock, the older residents believed that they were indeed witnessing a new era in transportation and a startling development. When the first electric fountain sprayed rainbow-hued streams of water into the air, the gasping crowds thought the limit in spectacular beauty had been attained. But the electrification of Savin Rock and West Haven on June 13, 1892 was only the forerunner of a period of greater expansion.

In 1902-03, the great White City was built on the site of the old Connecticut League Baseball Park, and Savin Rock became a miniature Coney Island. Under an incandescent tracery of lights, the White City blazed forth like a fairyland. Fireworks and balloon ascensions were featured, band concerts were favorite entertainments, and the entire area glittered with concessions that lined

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the edge of the sidewalks within the enclosure. The trolley company reaped a golden harvest until the mass production of automobiles.

In 1910, Mr. Albert Widmann established an annual cross-harbor swimming contest starting at Savin Rock and finishing at Lighthouse Point, which attracted thousands of spectators. A two-dollar entry fee, returned to every contestant who actually finished, confined the race to accomplished swimmers. After 1934, when a section of the Lighthouse Pier collapsed under the weight of the crowds, Mr. Widmann withdrew his sponsorship, but the contest has been continued as an A. A. U. event, under the auspices of the *New Haven Register*.

In 1913, a building boom of such proportions developed in West Haven that it became necessary to appoint a building inspector. The Board of Police Commissioners was created in 1914. That same year, the N. Y., N. H., and H. R. R. built an east bound station to handle increased traffic, and the New Haven Distributing House of the Western Electric Company was established at West Haven.

With 1917 came American participation in the World War, and West Haven did all it could, both in purchase of Liberty Bonds and the provision of men and materials of war. Savin Rock was swept by a \$100,000 fire in 1917. In 1918 the old "Connecticut Building," relic of Chicago's World's Fair, burned, with an estimated loss of \$35,000. In that year, the board of park commissioners was created to provide public recreational areas.

The Town of West Haven was incorporated June 24, 1921, by an act of the General Assembly. At long last, the community became a self-sufficient unit, with its own town government. Town meetings have continued to be spirited events, just as they were back in Colonial days, when the Reverend Theophilus Morris said that West Haven people were ready in debate and "the most learned in casuistry" of any group he had ever met.

West Haven suffered four serious fires in 1921, with losses totaling \$75,000. Liberty Pier, fronting Beach Street between Grove and Holmes Streets, was erected at Savin Rock in 1922. The Pier extended 500 feet over the water, and on it were located novelty and refreshments stands, fun houses, and a roller coaster called "The Devil".

Many of Savin Rock's leased concessions stood on property of the Connecticut Company, the traction company that served the area. In 1924, the transportation organization decided against further operation of recreational facilities and sold the White City to the Savin Rock Amusement Company.

While West Haven's industry has grown steadily through the years, occasional periods of misfortune have visited the Savin Rock Community, so dependent upon transient pleasure-seekers for a large portion of its income. The last year of big gate receipts at the concessions was 1926. In 1932, Liberty Pier was destroyed by a disastrous fire. Faced with the reduced income of the depression years and suffering this great fire loss, an average organization probably would have abandoned the project and made no effort to rebuild. This was not true of



Fountain in the Old Savin Rock Grove—1900;
Varied Colored Lights Played on the Water at Night



Lake Phipps, Artificial Body of Water;
Source of West Haven's Water Supply—1902

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the operators of Savin Rock. During the year 1938, a new Water-Scooter was built in the Grove at a cost of over \$30,000, a new Fun House costing over \$7,000 was erected on Beach Street, and a new skating rink, also on Beach Street was constructed at an expense of about \$20,000.

In the hurricane of September, 1938, the high seas and gale wrecked practically all of the buildings on the south side of Beach Street, with the exception of the Showboat, which, ironically, was the only building in Savin Rock covered by hurricane insurance.

Elaborate plans are now in preparation for many new amusement concessions and renovation of the old. Two new "rides" have been erected on the site of the Palais Royal, which was completely demolished. The Thunderbolt, partially destroyed, has been rebuilt, and a new nightelub has been opened on Shore Road at Oyster River. The baseball park and the outdoor arena, used for boxing bouts and midget auto races, both suffered heavy hurricane damages but have since been thoroughly reconditioned. A carrousel, to extend over the water on the south side of Beach Street is under construction at a cost of more than \$50,000 and a large wooden dancehall, formerly on Washington Avenue, has been moved to Beach Street in front of the Hill's Homestead, and converted into a "ride".

A campaign to incorporate West Haven as a city failed in a Town Meeting in 1929. A State Armory was constructed here in 1931, and the appointment of a zoning board, zoning inspector and zoning board of appeals was voted. The 1939 Grand List was \$62,945,006 gross. The town area is 7,204 acres.

WEST HAVEN INDUSTRY

Few industries aside from the grist mill developed in the farming community of early days. Records show that a paper mill was established in 1776, but farming and oystering continued to be the chief occupations of the settlers.

Within the last century a number of diversified industries, whose products have gained a wide reputation for excellence, have been established in West Haven.

HUBBARD SORGHUM MILL

In 1862, John Hubbard erected a mill, which still stands, about a quarter mile east of Oyster River off Jones Hill Road, for the purpose of refining sorghum as a substitute for sugar, during the shortage in the early days of the Civil War. Sorghum was planted in the early spring and harvested in the early fall before the stalks were dried out. After the leaves had been stripped off, the stalks were put through a series of rollers geared to a vertical shaft; power was supplied by a horse harnessed to a rotating shaft in the lower floor of the mill. The juice, pressed from the stalks, was run through a trough into large cooking pans or separators in the refinery, where it was boiled until it reached the consistency of molasses or corn syrup. The output of the mill, though not large, was sufficient to furnish West Haven, Orange, and Milford residents, who came to the mill for their supplies and paid an average of 50 cents a gallon. The Hubbard family usually planted about an acre of their land with sorghum and also on a share basis, refined the sorghum raised by the neighboring farmers.

The old mill building, which operated until 1883, is still standing, though the refinery has been torn down. Much of the old machinery is still in the possession of the Hubbard family. In the mill may be seen the shaft that reached from the ground up through the roofing timbers; stored away in a nearby wagon shed, are the larger copper pans used for cooking the syrup.

H. H. RICHARDS LUMBER CO.

Oldest of the present-day or recent industries was the H. H. Richards Lumber Co., formerly of 37 Water Street, founded in 1849 by three brothers, Edward A., George O., and Benjamin F. Richards. With large dockage facilities on the West River channel leading into New Haven Harbor, this firm, originally capitalized for \$10,000, was continuously under the direct management of the family of the founders, who personally supervised both the executive and operating affairs of the company and employed local labor almost exclusively.

In the building boom, 1923-27, when a large number of apartment houses were erected in New Haven and West Haven, the company reached its most marked prosperity and employed a yard force of 45 men. Early in 1939, the company was forced to liquidate and the assets were purchased by the Batter Building Materials Company of New Haven.

WEST HAVEN INDUSTRY

WEST HAVEN BUCKLE COMPANY

The West Haven Buckle Company of 742 Washington Avenue, founded in 1853, produces buckle specialties of many varieties, including surgical buckles, and fastenings for artificial limbs, orthopedic appliances, garters, overalls, and other clothing.

On the first board of directors was Sheldon S. Hartshorn, an inventor, who patented in the company's name on July 24, 1860, the first hinged buckle made in America, from which most of the buckles of this type in use today have been developed.

Three years after its organization, the firm was joined by George H. Kelsey, founder of the American Buckle Company at Middletown, Connecticut, whose plant there was destroyed by fire in 1856. In 1860, the business gained impetus, when Daniel Trowbridge, a wealthy, retired shipowner and merchant, who traded his stock in an oyster company for that of the buckle company, was elected president. Mr. Trowbridge directed the affairs of the company until his death in 1893. In 1900, when the company was reorganized, Phelps Montgomery became president; J. C. Hyde, secretary, and C. E. Thompson, treasurer.

Until 1934, power used in the factory was generated by a two-cylinder, upright steam engine of the old Corliss type, built by the New Haven Machine Company and installed in 1853. After nearly 82 years of active service, this engine was carefully dismantled and is now on display at the museum of Henry Ford at Dearborn, Michigan.

The present officers of the company are Phelps Montgomery, president and treasurer; John P. Montgomery, secretary and manager; A. M. Hyde, technical advisor.

THE AMERICAN BUCKLE COMPANY

The American Buckle Co., 291 Campbell Avenue, was originally founded at Middletown by George H. Kelsey in 1843, who conducted the business there until 1856, when the plant was destroyed by fire. Mr. Kelsey, who was associated with the West Haven Buckle Company until 1885, reorganized the American Buckle Company in that year and established the present plant. Beginning with a small, two-story, red-brick building, the plant has been repeatedly enlarged, until it now occupies 60,000 square feet devoted to the manufacture of overall buckles, wire specialties, tin trimmings, cash box handles, and other wire novelties for the makers of many trade-marked articles. More than 75 per cent of the company's products are used by nationally known overall makers.

This concern is reputed to be the first of its kind to make use of the process of electric welding in joining wire ends. All of the equipment needed for the process was designed and built within the factory. The designs of articles produced here are covered by over 50 patents, including the exclusive right to manufacture the "movable bar" type of overall buckle. In 1934, when the Wire Novelty Company plant moved from West Haven, the buckle business of that firm was purchased by the American Buckle Company.

HISTORY OF WEST HAVEN

For many years, the Kelsey family, which in 1885 subscribed to almost all of the capital stock, remained in exclusive control. Officers of the present company are Robert J. Hodge, president; Jessup Salisbury, vice-president and treasurer; and Hubert C. Hodge, secretary. The company now employs an average of 50 persons, the majority of whom have been continuously in the firm's employ for from 30 to 50 years.

THE CHURCH PRESS

The Church Press, occupying a two-story, wooden building at 674 Washington Avenue, is reported to be the oldest print shop in New Haven County that has been continually under the management of one family. The firm specializes in all types of ecclesiastical printing, and, on a web press capable of printing a 16-page tabloid, prints the town's weekly newspaper, *The West Haven Town Crier*.

Sherman Thomas, grandfather of Nathan Thomas, who now conducts the Church Press, opened a small printing shop in New Haven in the late 1880's. Edwin P. Thomas, son of Sherman, served his apprenticeship in this little establishment and is reputed to have originated the idea of printing daily baseball scores on a single sheet of paper, a tabulation that found a ready sale in the cafes and business houses of New Haven—as its successor does today.

In the spring of 1892, Edwin P. Thomas and Robert W. French formed a partnership and started a printing shop in a little brick building on Washington Avenue, West Haven, near the plant of the West Haven Buckle Company. They named it the "Knox-All" Printery. A short time later, they removed the business to its present location, a building erected by the late Senator James R. Graham. In 1897, Mr. French resigned from the firm, and in 1901 the name was changed to The Church Press. Edwin Thomas continued to operate the plant until his death in 1920, when his two sons, Herbert and Nathan assumed control. Herbert, the senior partner, died in 1937.

The printing shop, now under the management of Nathan Thomas, does all types of job printing, from advertising pamphlets to books. Complete equipment for job work consists of two linotype machines, four small job presses, two cylinder presses, folder and cutter, saws and caster, and a flat-bed web press.

HAMM BLACKSMITHING SHOP

The Hamm Blacksmithing Shop, formerly located at 1165 Campbell Avenue established by Charles M. Hamm in 1890, originally specialized in the construction of metal parts for the finer carriages of that era. With the advent of the automobile, the concern turned to hand-made finishings, such as ornamental iron garden benches, and, when they, in turn, were superseded by machine products, specialized in springs and spring repairs.

Until the firm closed down in 1939, Mr. Hamm, then 90 years of age, was still actively engaged in the business with his son Max, who, at the age of 14, began to serve his apprenticeship with his father. The building has since been demolished.



Old West Haven Railroad Station and the West Haven Buckle Company Plant



Making Buckles at the American Buckle Co. Plant;
75% of Product Used by Overall Manufacturers

WEST HAVEN INDUSTRY

AMERICAN MILLS COMPANY

The West Haven Branch of the American Mills Company, in the Allingtown section, corner of Orange and Front Avenues, produces elastic webbing for the manufacturers of suspenders, garters, corsets, and other articles of apparel.

Established here in 1903, with Archer J. Smith as president, the original plant consisted of one building, used for both manufacturing and executive purposes. The present plant includes a factory covering a 200-foot frontage on Orange Avenue and a 700-foot frontage on Front Avenue; a one-story, red-brick weaving room, on Front Avenue; and a three-story red-brick administrative and shipping building on Orange Avenue. The company regularly employs 250 persons and, periodically, a large additional force, operating on two or three shifts, as orders require. The present officers are: Julius B. Smith, president; James R. Sheldon, vice-president; and F. M. Chamberlain, secretary and treasurer.

CONNECTICUT FAT RENDERING AND FERTILIZER COMPANY

Organized in 1903, as a co-operative concern, by a large group of retail marketmen throughout Connecticut, the Connecticut Fat Rendering and Fertilizer Corporation is now said to be one of only four such co-operative rendering concerns operating in this country. This corporation, with a plant covering approximately ten acres, collects waste material, such as trimmings and fats, from markets throughout the State, and converts them into salable materials, ensuring the largest return to the marketmen for their waste material. The chief products of the plant are tallow for the manufacture of soaps and meat scraps used in poultry food. Since its organization, the concern has been one of the town's largest taxpayers. The present officers are: Albert F. Ridinger, president, New Haven; Charles P. Case, vice-president, Hartford; Charles J. Scully, secretary, Hartford; and Howard J. Graff, treasurer, New Haven. The board of ten directors represents all sections of the State.

NEW HAVEN RENDERING COMPANY

The New Haven Rendering Company, established in 1903, purchased the property of the Merwin Provision Company on the meadow lands north of Spring Street. The plant, originally of wood frame construction, used as a commercial slaughter house for cattle, sheep, and pigs, has been enlarged and improved, until it now occupies two red-brick buildings equipped to handle all the waste materials used in the manufacture of tallow, greases, and commercial fertilizers. The by-products from the production of tallow and greases are combined with chemicals to make a mixed fertilizer, which is sold to farmers throughout the East. A completely equipped abattoir, connected with the plant, is operated under the supervision of Dr. W. J. Watt. This firm also buys and sells hides, cat skins, pelts, and wool.

AMERICAN AGRICULTURAL CHEMICAL COMPANY

Organized in 1898 by Lucian Sanderson as the Sanderson Fertilizer Company, with offices on Water Street and warehouses on Belle Dock in New Haven.

HISTORY OF WEST HAVEN

the firm moved to its present location at 2 Wood Street, West Haven, in 1903. In 1911, the company became a subsidiary of the American Agricultural Chemical Company of New York, which took over complete control and dropped the Sanderson name in 1926.

The company produces chemical fertilizers and insecticides, derived from three main sources: phosphate from the company's mines at Phosphate Rock, Florida, potash from Germany and France, and nitrate of soda from South America.

Insecticides produced here from a mixture of arsenate of lead, sulphur nicotine products, and various other chemicals are used as a spray to eliminate insects from growing plants, and as a preventative of fungus disease.

John Curran, the manager, has been with the concern since 1907.

THE SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND TELEPHONE COMPANY (Branch)

The Southern New England Telephone Company opened its first West Haven office in 1903, on Wood Street. Increasing demands for service made additional space necessary, and, in 1907, the office was moved to the upper floor of the car-barn office building on Campbell Avenue at Court Street. In 1914, the office and exchange were moved to Campbell Avenue at Main Street, diagonally opposite the town hall, where they remained until the present two-story red brick building at 463 Campbell Avenue was constructed in 1923-24. This department now serves approximately 5,000 telephones in this section of the New Haven Exchange.

AMERICAN TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAPH COMPANY

The American Telephone and Telegraph Company maintains a branch office for the transmission of long-distance and overseas cable calls in the large, red-brick building at the corner of Orange Avenue and Prudden Street, on the crest of Allingtown Hill.

CLARK DAIRY INCORPORATED

Beginning with a small herd of half a dozen cows, the milk from which was processed in a small 10 x 10-foot, one-story building and delivered on foot, Charles A. Clark, in 1905, founded the present large Clark Dairy Inc., which occupies an L-shaped dairy building, surrounded by green lawns, at 470 Elm Street, and owns a fleet of trucks.

In addition to 3,000 quarts of milk distributed daily in West Haven and vicinity, the company produces many milk by-products, including ice cream and ice cream novelties. The milk is secured on contract from registered herds and processed by the latest improved machinery.

A chain of retail stores (Milk-Bars), recently opened by the concern, are proving successful in providing additional outlets for their products. Two of these stores are now operating in New Haven, with a third under construction.

Present officers of the corporation are: Charles A. Clark, president; Hannah T. Clark, vice-president; and Leroy A. Buckingham, secretary.

WEST HAVEN INDUSTRY

THE WEST HAVEN CREAMERY

In 1905, George M. Smith, determined to increase his income by selling milk from his farm on Saw Mill Road. The first customers were supplied from a wire carrier that Mr. Smith strapped to his back before he mounted his bicycle each morning, on his way to work at the old Mathushek Piano Shop on Brown Street.

The demand for milk increased so rapidly that Mr. Smith soon had to devote his entire time to the business. In 1906, he purchased a milk route from Theodore French and, in 1926, added the P. J. Allspaugh routes, then serviced by Fred Ziegler. In 1918, Mr. Smith's son, Christian, became a partner in the business, and the name Spring Lake Dairy was adopted. In 1932, Frank C. Ennever was admitted as a third member of the firm, which was then incorporated as the West Haven Creamery.

Today a fleet of seven trucks make deliveries from the large dairy, which is equipped with modern pasteurization and bottling machinery. The milk is now secured from 18 contracted farms and a home herd of 12 cows.

The present officers are George Smith, president; Frank Ennever, vice-president; Christian M. Smith, treasurer.

ADELHURST IRON WORKS

The Adelhurst Iron Company, 52 Richards Street, was founded in 1901 in New Haven by John Adelhurst and G. Leroy Clark. In 1911, when the Yale Safe and Iron Company, of West Haven dissolved, the Adelhurst firm moved into that company's quarters at the present location, and continued under a partnership until 1926, when incorporation papers were filed. The plant occupies two red-brick buildings on private railroad sidings. Both heavy and light ornamental iron work, articles of stainless steel, aluminum, and other metals are the principal products. Much of the grill and other ornamental work used in the buildings at Yale University in New Haven, are the products of this concern.

The two men who founded the company, Mr. Adelhurst as president, and Mr. Clark as treasurer, are still the guiding heads of the corporation.

HALL ORGAN COMPANY

Founded in New Haven, in 1896, as the H. Hall & Company, the now nationally known Hall Organ Company was incorporated and moved to West Haven in 1912. The site of its present plant, at 692 Campbell Avenue was purchased from the Sutton Estate in March, 1912, and construction rushed so that the factory was operating in October of the same year. The plant now comprises a three-story brick building, providing 31,000 square feet of operating room, with separate lumber and storage buildings adding another 7,400 square feet. Twice since 1912 it has been necessary to enlarge the plant, which today is reputed to be one of the most completely equipped organ factories in the United States.

HISTORY OF WEST HAVEN

Since the concern moved to West Haven, pipe organs—many of national prominence—have been manufactured here and installed in every State in the Union. Installations have also been made in Central America and the Bahama Islands. Each instrument is custom built and requires from 20 to 25 varieties of lumber, each for a particular purpose, as well as a large assortment of metals and many special compositions that are cast at the plant. Many other raw materials, such as cork, rubber, ivory, shellac, paper wares, and wax are also employed in the construction; installation of each completed instrument is personally supervised by a member of the firm. There are over 50 Hall organs in use in New Haven and more than 200 in Connecticut. At least 25 are in use in California. In 1915, Hall Organ Company was awarded the Gold Medal for excellence at the Panama-Pacific Exposition in California.

Due to economic conditions, the concern has reduced its normal force from 90 to 25 highly skilled mechanics. Some of the founders remain as executives of the company.

George A. Hall, president and treasurer, and Frederick Campkin, vice-president, have both held office since the incorporation; Clifford R. North is secretary.

WESTERN ELECTRIC COMPANY

The New Haven Distributing House of the Western Electric Company, established at West Haven in 1913, is one of 29 such plants in United States cities, which form a countrywide distribution system for furnishing equipment to the telephone companies of the Bell system. These distributing houses are the contact points through which materials, produced at the three main factories in Chicago, Illinois, Baltimore, Maryland, and Kearney, New Jersey, are distributed directly to the telephone companies.

The New Haven Distributing House serves chiefly the territory of the Southern New England Telephone Company. Like all of the other plants in the system, it handles large stocks of telephone instruments, cable, switchboards, and hundreds of other items manufactured by the Western Electric Company, and supplies many hundreds of other items purchased by the company from outside factories. As a result of expanding business, the New Haven House transferred its quarters in May, 1929, from Wood Street to the present modern establishment at 135 Wood Street.

The present building, which provides more than double the floor space of the three old structures, contains about 40,000 square feet of warehouse space, about 13,000 square feet of shop space, and 5,000 square feet office space.

FRANK D. CASHIN PAPER COMPANY

Established in Springfield, Massachusetts, in 1892, by William Cashin, father of the present owner, under the name of the Cashin Card and Glazed Paper Company, and moved to New Haven in 1904, this firm was incorporated in 1905 and dissolved in 1916, but was reopened by Frank D. Cashin on its

present site, Wood Street, West Haven, in 1917. Mr. Cashin died in the latter part of 1938 and was succeeded by his sister, Miss Rubie M. Cashin, who had been closely associated with her brother and father in conducting the firm's affairs.

Housed in a large, one-story, red-brick building, the company is the only one of its kind in Connecticut engaged in a process known as glazing paper, to be used as box covering labels, and other items required by drug, pin, soap, hosiery, underwear, seed, and other manufacturers. The founder, William Cashin, was a pioneer in this field. More than 14,000 square feet of floor space are required, although the work is done by only six employees, all of whom are highly skilled in their respective lines. An interesting feature of the process is that the paper is colored on one side only, an intricate task.

After the water colors, mixed with talcum and wax, have been prepared in a large barrel, the liquid is run onto rolls of a huge machine through which the paper is drawn. Large metal arms grasp the paper as it comes off the rolls and carry it, in sections, on a conveyor, 300 feet in length, down a long alley, where it is dried by steam pipes above and below. The drying takes no longer than the time required to carry the paper the length of the alley and return. The paper is then run through a glazing machine, consisting of a large compressed-cotton roller, combined with a smaller steel roller. The mixture of talcum and wax in the coloring produces the glaze through simple frictions; the upper roller (steel) moves rapidly, while the lower (cotton) moves slowly.

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GOODWORK, INCORPORATED

Since its incorporation in 1919, under the direction of Harry Astrachan, president, the cleaning and dyeing establishment of Goodwork, Inc., has grown rapidly. Originally requiring but two persons to carry on the work, the firm now employs well over a hundred in its long, low, red brick plant, at 37 Campbell Avenue. The firm also engages in shoe repairing, hat cleaning, rug cleaning, and shirt laundering. Garments collected by company trucks from the firm's chain of stores throughout Connecticut and New York are cleansed and pressed at the rate of more than 10,000 daily.

ARMSTRONG RUBBER COMPANY

The Armstrong Rubber Company, producers of automobile tires and tubes, founded and incorporated in 1912 at Garfield, New Jersey, by George Armstrong, was moved in 1922 to West Haven, where the concern purchased a plant then recently erected by a tire company that failed to go into operation. At the time the Armstrong Rubber Company was organized, more than 600 concerns in the United States were manufacturing tires and tubes; only 30 are now exclusively engaged in producing these two items. The present plant includes six large buildings, and another is under construction.

Credit for designing an innovation that revolutionized a phase of the tire industry in 1934 is given to James A. Walsh, president of the Armstrong Rubber Company; his "Air-Coaster," a design now almost universally employed in the

HISTORY OF WEST HAVEN

manufacture of tires, provides a flat and wider riding surface, practically eliminating the uneven wear to which round tires were subject.

In the spring of 1939, the company erected a subsidiary plant at Natchez, Mississippi, which has so increased the firm's output that distribution of its tires has been extended to cover the United States.

In 1939, a four-story building was constructed on the West Haven premises and is now in use as a warehouse and shipping department. Foundation has been completed for a four-story addition to the main building, facing on Saw Mill Road. This building will provide adequate space for a tube-manufacturing department, to be equipped with the most modern machinery, set up for "straight line" production. This improvement will greatly increase the firm's output of tubes, which is negligible at present due to the high cost of production. A part of this new building will also be used for the manufacture of additional tires. It is estimated that a substantial increase in tire production will result.

The plant's present daily production is 4500 automobile tires (for trucks and pleasure cars); about 600 persons are employed, most of whom are local residents; the 1939 payroll of the firm exceeded \$600,000. In view of the expansion program now under way, it is estimated that, with the expected increase in personnel, the 1940 payroll figures will approximate three-quarters of a million dollars.

The affairs of this organization are directed by James A. Walsh, president, in charge of production, and Frederick Macklin, treasurer, in charge of sales.

THE VELVET TEXTILE CORPORATION

The Velvet Textile Corporation, producing transparent velvet and other pile fabrics, opened in West Haven in 1922, when its present plant on Gilbert Street was erected. When the plant is operating on full time, from 150 to 175 persons are regularly employed. (Visitors without a pass are not permitted.)

WEST HAVEN FOUNDRY COMPANY

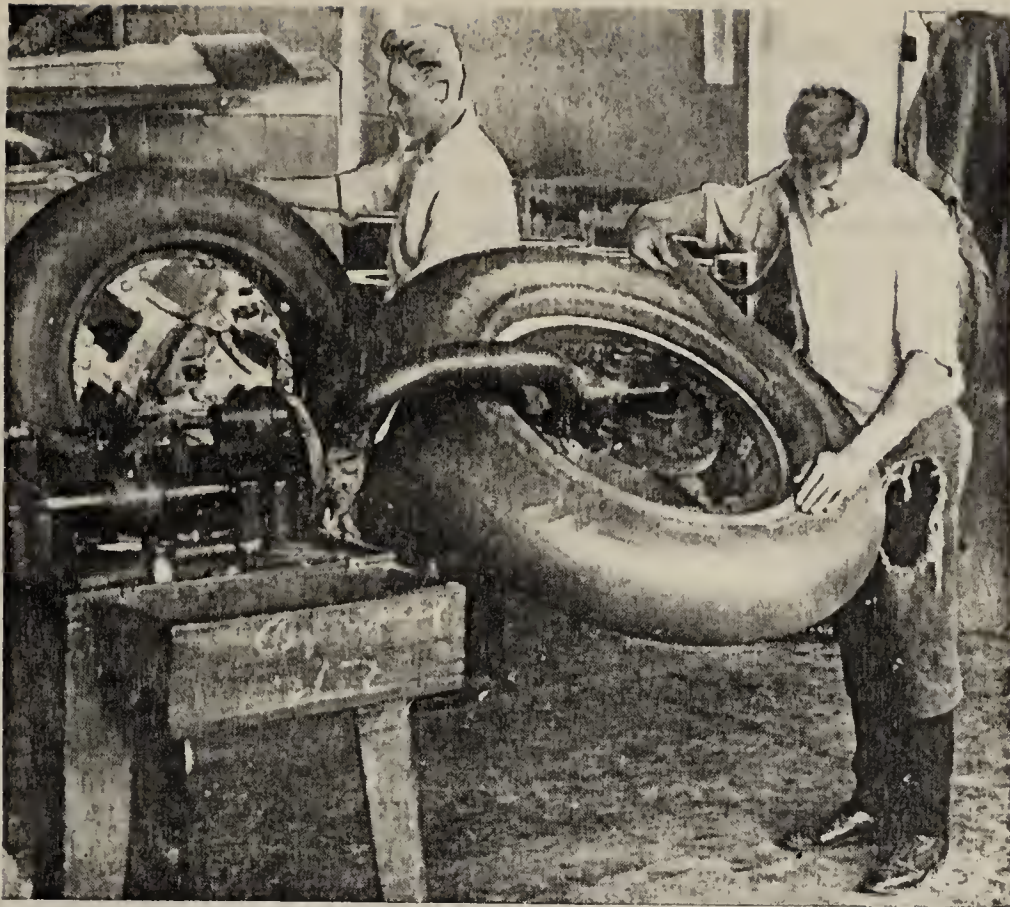
The West Haven Foundry Company, at 27 Kimberly Avenue, manufactures brass, aluminum, bronze, and nichol-silver castings; bearing bronze; copper hammers; table lamps, candle sticks, bronze tablets, and related products that are nationally distributed.

Founded in 1923, by W. G. Shutter, the company occupies a long, low, red brick building, covering 6,000 square feet of floor space, set back from the sidewalk in a fashion reminiscent of an old village blacksmith shop.

Memorial tablets of bronze and other metals, used in many public and other buildings throughout the country, are manufactured in this West Haven plant.

METAL PRODUCTS COMPANY, INC.

Among articles manufactured by the Metal Products Company, Inc., 510 First Avenue, are: house letterboxes; carpenters' planes; security boxes; hand drills; lunch kits; garden tools; and general hardware jobbing supplies. The



Building Tires at the Armstrong Rubber Company Plant;
West Haven Unit Has Daily Production of 4,500 Tires



Grove Hotel, Savin Rock;
As It Appeared at the Turn of the Century

WEST HAVEN INDUSTRY

concern regularly employs about 60 persons, most of whom are West Haven residents, and has an annual payroll of about \$70,000.

The company was incorporated in 1923 by Arthur Stieler as president, George Jacobs as treasurer, both of whom still retain these offices. Beginning in one small structure, the firm has expanded until it now occupies four one-story, brick buildings.

CARROLL CUT-RATE PERFUMERS CORPORATION

The Carroll Cut-Rate Perfumers Corporations manufacturing plant and warehouse, at 202 Orange Avenue, in the Allingtown section, occupies a four-story, grey stone building erected in 1931. Its products are perfumes, cosmetics and drugs. With the repeal of Prohibition, a liquor department was added, but is conducted as a separate industry.

The business was established in 1922 by Samuel Benjamin, who was then operating a cosmetic store on Congress Avenue, in New Haven, and wished to produce perfumes and cosmetics of quality at lower prices than were then prevalent. The firm prospered; Mr. Benjamin acquired two partners and commenced the extension of business which now includes a chain of retail stores from coast to coast.

Providing employment at the West Haven plant for over 100 persons, most of whom are women, the concern is still guided by the three original incorporators; Samuel Benjamin, president; Samuel Krause, vice-president; and Morris Walheimer, secretary and treasurer.

TOWN CRIER

The West Haven Town Crier, 674 Washington Avenue was established in 1930 as the successor to the "News-Record".

Published weekly, on Friday, this politically independent eight page tabloid style newspaper, has an estimated circulation of about 6,000.

The present publisher and editor, Frank M. Sheehan, has managed the "Crier" since 1937.

WEST HAVEN SHIPYARD, INC.

The West Haven Shipyard, Inc., on Water Street, at the foot of Main Street, on the site of the old Gessner and Mar Shipyard, was established in 1931 and, since that time, has enjoyed brisk business in the general repair of yachts and commercial vessels of smaller sizes. The yards were acquired from the Yale Flying-boat Service, Inc., established in 1929, to repair and build seaplanes, and a small amount of this work is still carried on here.

The plant, equipped to build and repair, under cover, vessels not exceeding 120 feet in length, also has an outdoor marine railway leading to the channel of West River, making possible the hauling out and repair of heavier vessels such as tug boats. The principal business of the 20 regular employees is the construction and repair of pleasure craft, both power and sail.

HISTORY OF WEST HAVEN

The officers and operating managers of the firm includes: T. G. Bennet, 2nd., president; Winchester Bennett, vice-president; and W. E. Hublitzelle, secretary and treasurer.

R. H. BROWN & COMPANY

Established in New Haven about 1880, by Rubin H. Brown, the R. H. Brown and Co., moved to 170 Wood Street, West Haven in 1932. Housed in a grey, wooden, two-story structure, formerly used as a schoolhouse, this concern, now directed by William K. Simpson, is engaged in the manufacture of tools, book-stitching and book-binding machines.

THE WEHLE BREWERY

The Wehle Brewery Company, organized in 1933, with R. J. Wehle as president, and H. J. Wehle, secretary-treasurer, purchased the former Weidemann Brewing Company, plant on Campbell Avenue, at the junction of First Avenue. That plant, before Prohibition one of the largest breweries in the State, has since been repeatedly enlarged, until it now includes a group of brick buildings, one five stories in height, with an aggregate floor space of 44,000 square feet.

The modern bottling, canning, and shipping departments have reached a maximum capacity of 19,000 cases of bottles or cans of beer daily, or a total of 470,000 individual packages. The products are also shipped in the conventional kegs, quarters, halves, and barrels. Absolute cleanliness is maintained throughout the brewery, a brew-master of many years' experience supervises the production.

Ale, lager beer, and porter are manufactured and distributed under registered trade names, several of which (especially Mulehead Ale) have secured large public favor.

OLD ELM WINES & LIQUOR, INC.

The Old Elm Wines & Liquor, Inc., established in 1933, after the repeal of Prohibition, by Giovanni Musso, occupied the old saw-ship building at 28-30 Elm Street, facing Kimberly Avenue. In 1939, the company built a two-story brick structure at 107 Water Street, better suited to its purposes. The firm's activities are largely confined to the bottling of products received in bulk containers and to the rectifying of spirits. The varieties handled range from the newer domestic wines and cordials to some of the rarer vintages of France and Italy.

Present officials of the concern include: Giovanni Musso, president; Frederick Bonnard, vice-president; and Charles Calosso, secretary.

NEWTON-NEW HAVEN COMPANY, INC.

The Newton-New Haven Company, Inc., die casters, came to West Haven, in 1934 and took over the former Wire Novelty Company plant at 630 Third

WEST HAVEN INDUSTRY

Avenue. This plant was originally the vast stables connected with the Waddingham mansion, which was destroyed by fire in 1902.

The Newton-New Haven Company had been formed in New Haven several years before moving to West Haven, by a group of men long identified with the die-casting industry. W. G. Newton, its president, was formerly president of the Newton Die Casting Corporation of New Haven. The die-casting business, unfamiliar to most people, is the manufacture of metal parts by forcing molten metal, under high pressure, into steel molds or dies. In addition to manufacturing completed dies, the Newton-New Haven Company also sells die-casting machines to manufacturers who make their own castings.

Of particular interest is a recent installation of equipment for the manufacture of high pressure aluminum castings. Especial emphasis is placed on the quality of these products, as many of them are for use in aircraft manufacture. Equipment has also been installed for experiments in manufacturing castings of magnesium, the lightest of all metals used commercially and of extreme value in aircraft building.

AMERICAN OIL COMPANY

The American Oil Company, purchased the Bulk Plant of the Pan-Am, or Mexican Petroleum Corporation, in West Haven on April 16, 1934. On Kimberly Avenue, south of the West River Bridge, the plant consists of five large storage tanks with a capacity of several thousands of gallons. A large administrative office is also maintained at this plant.

Products are delivered here by the company's oil tankers, via the West River Channel, and redistributed by company trucks to the territory covered: south as far as Milford; north as far as Waterbury; and east along the shoreline as far as Saybrook.

McELGOTT FUEL CORPORATION

The McElgott Fuel Corporation of Waterbury, Connecticut, opened its bulk plant at 79 Water Street, West Haven, on October 16, 1935.

Consisting of three large tanks, this plant is used as a distribution center for the company's products and serves all of Connecticut.

AMERICAN WOODWORKING COMPANY

Newton H. Borgerson, an architect formerly in the employ of the Richards Lumber Company, established the American Woodworking Company, at 34 Water Street on September 1, 1936.

Employing eight to ten competent mill workers, the company manufactures cabinets, store fixtures, book cases, screens, sashes, metal weather-stripping, and fireplace mantels for the retail trade. The 90 x 110-foot wood-frame structure housing the concern is completely equipped with modern machinery.

HISTORY OF WEST HAVEN

CONNECTICUT REFINING COMPANY

The Connecticut Refining Company, at 105 Water Street, is the out-growth of a single gasoline station originally established and operated by Edward Shiner at 44 Elm Street, West Haven. In 1930, the West Haven Oil Corporation was incorporated with William L. Larash, president; Mrs. Gussie Shiner, vice-president; and Edward Shiner, secretary and treasurer. The Bulk Plant, now operated by this concern, was built on Water Street in 1932; the name of the company was changed to its present title in 1934, with the same officials in control.

Products handled here include: gasoline; kerosene; fuel oils; Bunker "C" oil; and motor oils. Trademarks owned by the company include: "Rex" (fuel oil and gasoline); "45 Water White" (kerosene); "Benzoline" (gasoline). The products are received by water at the tanks located on the West River Channel, which flows into New Haven Harbor, and are redistributed by truck to the company's chain of gasoline stations throughout Connecticut.

Approximately 50 persons are employed by the company in its distribution plant. A fleet of tank trucks, varying in number from 20 to 25, is operated by this concern.

The Bulk Plant, on Water Street, consists of five large tanks; four of these have capacity of 645,000 gallons each, and the remaining one has a capacity of 225,000 gallons. A battery of smaller tanks have a total capacity of about 4,000,000 gallons. The total capacity of the entire plant exceeds 6,800,000 gallons.

AIR DISTRIBUTORS, INC.

Among the recent additions to West Haven's industries is Air Distributors, Inc., which came to 72 Water Street, West Haven, from New Haven, in August of 1939, and established a distribution house for air-conditioning apparatus manufactured by the Carrier Corporation of Syracuse, New York.

Occupying the first floor of a two-story red-brick building, this concern employs ten persons regularly, with a seasonal fluctuation. Organized in April of 1938, this company has already opened up new territory for its products. It originally served only New Haven and Fairfield counties, but now covers New London and Middlesex counties as well. A branch office is maintained at Bridgeport for the convenience of Fairfield County clients.

Mr. C. C. Farrell, of Westport, organizer of the firm, is the president.

FULLER MERRIAM COMPANY

Another recent addition to the industries of West Haven is the Fuller Merriam Company, at 72 Water Street. Occupying the second floor of the same building that houses the Air Distributors, Inc., this company is engaged in the manufacture of abrasive grinding wheels.

Organized on September 1, 1939, this firm chose West Haven for its location because of the proximity to factories in New Haven and other Connecticut cities.

The abrasive grinding wheel has replaced the grindstone and emery wheel, in the finishing of pistons, cylinders, and all moving parts. This company, the

WEST HAVEN INDUSTRY

first manufacturer of this type of wheel to establish a plant in the New Haven area, has proved its worth to Connecticut industries.

The wheel manufactured by Fuller Merriam is the result of more than eight years of research carried on by Dr. E. S. Merriam of Marietta, Ohio; it is of a vitrified type developed by him in an unique process.

Officers of the concern are: Harrison Fuller, president and treasurer; and Mrs. Julia B. Fuller, secretary.

ELM CITY MACHINE COMPANY

The latest of West Haven's industrial plants is the Elm City Machine Company, of 31 Water Street. Established in December of 1939 by Charles Liedke and Lewis Dandelske of New Haven, the firm manufactures roll feeds and reel stands and is engaged in machine designing, general machine work, and machine repair.

WEST HAVEN OYSTER INDUSTRY

The raising of oysters for market was for many years an important industry in West Haven, although the town waters are now restricted to the culture of seed oysters. From 1879 to 1917, approximately 3,290,000 bushels were raised on "Shag Bar." This comparatively small area of 75 acres, sometimes known as Beach Oyster Grounds, adjoining the present Sandy Point, was especially productive because of the favorable saline content of the water resulting from the fusion of river and sea at this point, combined with the suitable temperature created by the action of the sunlight on the shoal grounds.

Since 1917, these beds within the breakwater have been used for the raising of "seed" oysters, which are transplanted to other waters to be fattened for market. The 1937 seed-oyster crop in these waters is estimated at 500,000 bushels. The last unusually large set harvested was in 1930. Present oyster beds within West Haven waters include 1,444.3 acres of leased grounds and 627.8 held under perpetual franchise. In the fiscal year ending April 30, 1940, revenue received by the town from taxed and leased oyster grounds amounted to \$5,970.87.

HISTORY

Oysters were harvested here by the earliest settlers who were shown the natural beds by the friendly Indians of the neighborhood.

As early as December 1777, a court order forbade the taking of oysters during the months of May through September and prohibited the carrying of shells away from the shore. A Town Meeting on April 7, 1828, voted that oysters could not be gathered without a written permit and named a committee of six to superintend the harvesting and to stake out within the limits of the town "places for the laying down of oysters." At that time it was also voted that "no such permit shall be granted unless upon a certificate under the hand of a physician that oysters will be conducive to the health of the person or persons for whose benefit the permit shall be requested, nor shall such permit be for more

HISTORY OF WEST HAVEN

than 24 hours." A fine of \$7 levied at this meeting for the taking of oysters from waters not staked by the committee was raised to \$15 in 1842.

The first recorded crop raised for market was in 1879. From that time until 1917, the average annual crop was 86,576 bushels, or 1,154 bushels per acre. The bumper crop of 1882, when 146,926 bushels were raised, was almost equalled in 1915 when 135,384 bushels, an average of 1805 per acre, were harvested. Anticipating the state board of health embargo because of increasing pollution of harbor water, no crop was raised in 1916. The loss to the town resulting from this pollution is indicated by the fact that "Shag Bar" oyster grounds, valued at \$1,000 per acre in 1915, at today's market price of oysters, would be worth about \$4,000 an acre.

For the protection of their valuable crops, oyster growers formed the West Side Oyster Association and maintained two watchmen to patrol the beach at low tide. These watchmen were quartered in "Watch Houses" erected on high piles at a central point, one about 400 feet from the top of Sandy Point and the other on a sand bar a short distance from City Point. Each was required to keep a light burning through the night to aid boatmen in finding their grounds. Abandoned in 1917, these watch houses were destroyed a few years ago in a fire of incendiary origin.

In January, 1881, the Shell Fish Commission was created by legislative act to provide a centralized supervision of shell-fish property and to prevent overlapping titles and similar complications. Prior to that year, Oyster Committees named by the town issued perpetual franchises for planting and cultivating oysters. Subsequently, applications for franchises have been made to the commission and recorded at the office of the West Haven town clerk. The first franchise granted by the commission August 15, 1881, gave to one Charles H. Seeley 300 acres of oyster ground at \$1 per acre. The franchise read: "To have and to hold the same unto the said grantee and his legal representative the only use and behoof of said grantee and his legal representative forever".

Because of the decreasing revenue from the West Haven oyster beds, the Shell Fish Commission was given complete jurisdiction over them in 1912. Since then, the commission has discontinued the granting of perpetual franchises in favor of leases (usually for periods of five or ten years) awarded by bids. Determined by the value of the beds, bids range from 50 cents to about \$3.50 per acre, although a maximum of \$30 per acre has been paid. The oyster beds are assessed by the Shell Fish Commission at \$15 per acre and a 2 per cent tax levied. All revenue from the leases and taxes is turned over to the town at no cost for the services of the commission. At the end of the fiscal year 1915, the annual revenue amounted to \$886.66.

Until 1925, oyster companies from any part of the State were at liberty to dredge, untaxed, in a natural bed of 1,200 acres within the town waters. A legislative act of that year placed this natural bed under the jurisdiction of the Shell Fish Commission. From this particular acreage, West Haven now derives the bulk of its revenue in taxes and leases on oyster grounds.

WEST HAVEN INDUSTRY

STARFISH ELIMINATION

Oyster growers estimate that more than 50 per cent of the annual seed-oyster crop in West Haven waters is destroyed by starfish. During the winter of 1933-34, when a branch of FERA was engaged in starfish extermination in Long Island waters, all available boats in West Haven waters were hired and large groups of men were employed in the work. Mops of yarn tangle were dragged over the bottom, catching in the spines of the starfish; the loaded mops were drawn in by a winch and dipped into scalding water. The dead fish were used as fertilizer. According to estimates, about one-and-a-half billion starfish were destroyed along the Connecticut coast.

In March, 1935, the United States Bureau of Fisheries established a biological laboratory at Milford, which has conducted a series of surveys of conditions in the Sound and experimented with possible methods for starfish control.

TOWN GOVERNMENT

Town meetings in West Haven are still spirited events despite the large population and diversity of residents' interests. Way back in Colonial days, the Reverend Theophilus Morris said that the West Haven people were ready in debate and "the most learned in casuistry" of any group he had ever met. His characterization still applies. Here, in town meeting today, just as public questions were bluntly discussed by sturdy farmers who were not afraid to express their opinions, modern problems are ardently debated by taxpayers, even though State law has in many ways limited the power of direct action.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

The board of selectmen, composed of three members, who are elected every two years, has broad powers, which have been increased many times since the founding of the town, in order to keep pace with the demands of the growing community. The duties of the first selectman are approximately those of the mayor of a city. The other two selectmen serve in a capacity similar to that of a board of aldermen. Town business is directed by the selectmen and a board of finance, a bipartisan group of six members. Action by a town meeting no longer limits these groups under the law, although such a meeting may be called to offer advice.

Selectmen elected in 1939 to serve until 1941 are: Charles F. Schall, James W. Gilbert, Jr., Robert Farquharson.

BOARD OF FINANCE

On July 13, 1911, the legislature passed "An Act Creating a Board of Finance for the Town of Orange, increasing the Powers of the Selectmen, and Repealing the Charter of the Borough of West Haven". This act, consisting of 28 sections, has since been amended in 1913, 1915, 1917, 1919, 1921, 1923, 1925, 1927, 1929, and 1931.

This board, with the first selectman, ex officio, as chairman, and six electors "who shall be taxpayers", is appointed by the board of selectmen for a term of three years, in accordance with a legislative act which provides that "not more than four members thereof, including the First Selectman, shall belong to the same political party". The first selectman is privileged to vote with this board only in the case of a tie.

Duties of the board include a minute study of the annual budget and setting of the tax rate, as well as approval of any expenditures made by all departments of the town government.

Present members of the board are: Albert T. Pierson, Joseph E. Miller, Gartner W. Caselton, Robert J. Hodge, John Frazer, Joseph B. Hannan, with First Selectman Charles F. Schall as chairman, and Elmer W. Scranton as clerk of the board.

TOWN GOVERNMENT

TOWN CLERK

The first town clerk of West Haven, Benjamin L. Lambert, was elected in 1822. His duties included keeping the land records and numerous services now performed by other departments, such as those of registrar of voters, and, for a time, town treasurer. The town clerk was paid on a fee basis until 1929, when a salary was voted.

George H. Thomas served the longest term in this office, from 1891 to 1926.

Today the town clerk is the registrar of vital statistics and the keeper of the land records; his work also includes such duties as the issuing of hunting, fishing, and dog licenses. Franklin A. Lum is the present town clerk; Mrs. Catherine Sheppard is assistant town clerk.

REGISTRARS

Under the Town of Orange, from 1822 to 1868, the town clerk acted as registrar of voters. New voters were made by the board of selectmen, the town clerk officiating as the board of registration. In 1868, two registrars of voters were elected to do this work. In 1869, the Assembly created two voting districts; the first included the present West Haven and the second the territory which is now the Town of Orange. Two registrars were elected from each district.

At the present time (1940), general registrars, one a Republican and the other a Democrat, are elected at each town election. Each of these general registrars appoints a deputy-registrar for each of the six voting districts, making a total of twelve deputies serving the town.

Roy Price, Republican, and John Blake, Democrat, are now general registrars.

TAX COLLECTOR

The first tax voted by the Town of Orange, in 1822, was high,—six cents on the dollar. Edmund K. Fowler was the first collector at a yearly salary of \$20. In 1823, inhabitants were allowed to "work out" their tax on the highways, at eight cents an hour under "Surveyors of Highways", who were paid at the same rate after they had worked out their own taxes.

In some years, the right to collect taxes was auctioned off to the lowest bidder, who was given a stated percentage of the money collected; at other times, a salary was voted, and, as late as 1925, a fee system was used. The lowest recorded bid to collect taxes was made by Zevi Alling in 1845; his bid was \$5.60. Some of the early collectors made substantial amounts when the town voted them series of old rate books and assigned them the property liens for back taxes. This form of special compensation was occasionally used until the 1890's.

In 1860, when the Grand List was \$813,686, the tax was four cents on the dollar to defray town costs, and one cent to maintain highways. In that year, when Sidney F. Oviatt, "bid off" the collection of taxes for \$19, the tax-

HISTORY OF WEST HAVEN

payer was allowed $12\frac{1}{2}$ cents an hour to work out his taxes. Dr. Henry W. Painter, the collector in 1866, received one per cent on collections of current taxes, and three per cent on back taxes.

Five separate tax districts developed, with an elected collector in each. Thus, in addition to the general town tax, there was a separate rate in the Allingtown Fire District, the West Shore Fire District, the Northern School District, and the Western School District. The Central, or Union School District, also had a separate rate, which was collected by the town tax collector. In 1926, this confusing system was simplified by consolidating the school districts into the Union School District. On July 1, 1935, the West Shore Fire District voted to have the town collect its annual levy, leaving the Allingtown Fire District as the only section of the town making an independent collection. This was remedied in 1938, when Allingtown voted to have the town tax collector collect its district tax.

Today (1940), the total town tax, in the First Taxation District, set by the board of finance, is $23\frac{1}{8}$ mills. This levy includes three separate rates, the 19-mill rate of the town, the $1\frac{3}{8}$ -mill rate of the First Taxation District for fire protection, and the $2\frac{3}{4}$ -mill rate of the West Haven School District, which operates as an independent unit of the town government. The three levies are collected as a unit by the town tax collector. The West Shore District pays a separate fire tax of $2\frac{3}{8}$ mills and the Allingtown District, a fire tax of $1\frac{1}{2}$ mills; both districts are exempt from the $1\frac{3}{8}$ -mill tax of the First Taxation District.

The board of finance sets the salary of the tax collector (Robert F. Sylvester, 1940), and that of the back tax attorney (Leon H. Gabriel, 1940), an office created April 1, 1937, in an effort to collect approximately \$200,000 owed the town in back taxes.

ASSESSORS—BOARD OF TAX REVIEW

Four months after its incorporation, at a meeting of the Town of Orange on October 7, 1822, a board of assessors and a board of relief were named. Henry Ward, Thomas Painter, John Bryan, Jr., Jesse Allen, and John Lambert were members of the first board of assessors. The first board of relief included Chauncey Alling, Eliakim Kimberly, and Robert Treat.

Before that time, the responsibility for assessing property was assumed by the church societies. The property list, or Grand List, as it is now known, was then called "the minister's rate". Some of those old rate books are preserved. One list of 1745, in the possession of the New Haven Colony Historical Society, shows that the property in the parish of West Haven, was valued at £4,627 and was held by 84 persons. In 1790, there were 107 property owners, and the total assessed value of their land had fallen to £3,149 indicating the hard times that followed the Revolutionary War.

In 1849, an assessment record of nonresidents shows dwelling houses assessed at \$150 to \$700, and land, depending on location, from \$10 to \$35 per



West Haven Town Hall, Erected in 1892;
It's One-Time Auditorium, Scene of Many Political Debates



"The Center," Main Street and Campbell Avenue;
As It Looked at the Turn of the Century

TOWN GOVERNMENT

acre. In 1889, the Town of Orange had a Grand List of \$2,546,966, while the Borough, or the present West Haven area, had a Grand List of \$1,641,570. From that date up to 1910, the town grew rapidly, with the assessed valuation increasing to \$10,589,262. The greatest increase in assessments came in 1926, when the Municipal Service Corporation was engaged to reassess the town at full market value. Valuations were increased from \$29,647,991 to \$50,366,253. At this time there was but one assessor, Charles Spreyer.

By Act of the General Assembly, in 1929, the number of assessors was increased to three, the present number. The tax assessor, chairman of this group, is employed full-time. The other two members are on a part-time basis. This group prepares the Grand List, after which additions or reductions are made by the board of relief, now known as the board of tax review. The completed list is reviewed by the board of finance as a basis for the tax rate.

In 1939, three local men were engaged to reassess the town at full market value. The taxable Grand List was decreased from \$52,651,660 to \$52,590,224. The 1939 Grand List, filed with the town clerk, upon which the 1940 tax rate of $23\frac{1}{8}$ mills has been set, is as follows:

Grand List, gross (1939) \$ 62,945,006.00

Taxable Grand List, net (1939) \$ 52,590,224.00

The three members of the board of tax review are elected at the biennial town elections, and members of the board of assessors are appointed by the selectmen for a term of two years. The present assessors are: Henry Conlan, Chairman; Clifford Whitehead and Richard Brennan, Sr.

TOWN COURT

Before 1822 legal matters here were settled in the courts of New Haven. After 1822, a simple town court was established with a justice of the peace acting as judge.

From 1873 to 1895, the court was held in the Borough Rooms, on the second floor of the Thompson Block. David E. FitzGerald, Jacob Goodhart, and other prominent members of the county bar often tried cases here before the farmer justices and grand jurors. As Savin Rock grew and numerous arrests were made for violation of closing-hour regulations, court cases increased and a "liquor prosecutor" was added to the staff.

All court officials were paid on a fee basis. The justice of the peace received \$3.12 for each case; a grand juror, \$2.06; and the liquor prosecutor, \$10. This fee system was abolished April 1, 1895, when the General Assembly created the Orange Town Court. That court had jurisdiction over all crimes and misdemeanors committed within the town, for which the fine did not exceed \$200, or a jail or workhouse term of not more than 6 months. This court also took over all duties of the old justices' court.

The first judge of the Orange Town Court was Samuel J. Bryant, who served until 1919. His staff consisted of deputy judge, Egbert E. Pardee;

HISTORY OF WEST HAVEN

prosecutor, John Wilkinson; and clerk, Charles K. Bush. A probation officer, Dr. Charles D. Phelps, was added to the court staff in 1905.

In the present West Haven court are Judges William Holleran and Douglass Johnson; prosecutors, William Hadden and John Carroll; clerk, Louis Hurley; assistant clerk, Humbert Orio; and probation officer, Edwin Appleton.

WELFARE DEPARTMENT

In the early days of the community there was no organized charity. Needy persons were either "bound out" as servants and laborers or sentenced to serve in the workhouse.

In 1823, within a year after Orange was incorporated as a town, the selectmen were authorized by a town meeting to auction off to the lowest bidder the responsibility of caring for the town poor for a period of one year. On October 4, 1824, it was voted that Parson Hine "be paid \$435. for freeing the town from any expense which may arise from the town paupers for the term of one year".

The successful bidder was required to clothe his charges, under the supervision of a committee named by the town to examine their clothing when they came under his care and at the end of the year. Pauper children between six and eight years of age were allowed six months of schooling each year; those between eight and sixteen years of age were given three months in school.

This method was continued until 1856, when a town meeting voted that "town poor care" was a matter to be handled by the first selectman as town agent. Needy persons were then placed with individual families. In later years, when hospitalization or institutional care was required, the selectmen supervised commitments. Needy families were supplied with orders for groceries, fuel and clothing; gas and electric bills were paid, and partial payments were made on rents. This practice was continued with little change until 1929.

When the depression became acute, the system was changed to provide part-time work for the hundreds of unemployed. To meet the emergency, the Town of West Haven floated public improvement bonds during 1932-33 to the amount of \$125,000.

The need of a permanent welfare department soon became apparent, and, on December 1, 1933, this unit was established. Mrs. Florence W. Heil was named as the first supervisor. The first selectman, as town agent, still remains, as provided by the statutes, responsible for the "care of the poor"; hence, the welfare supervisor, though relieving him of those duties, cannot assume the responsibilities. Applications for relief are investigated by members of the department assigned to this particular work.

Under the supervision of Mrs. Anne Stapleton, and employing 11 persons, the welfare department in February, 1940, was providing aid to 371 West Haven families, or a total of 1,360 persons. The cost to the town for direct aid in that month amounted to \$8,308.26, and for hospitalization, \$1,593.25.

TOWN GOVERNMENT

BOARD OF HEALTH

The West Haven Board of Health was created by Special Act of the Connecticut Legislature on June 5, 1923. Consisting of three members, one of whom must be a physician, appointed to three-year terms by the board of selectmen, the board has the power to employ a health officer and as many sanitary inspectors as it considers necessary.

The present board, which has complete control over all problems relating to the health of the town, includes Patrick A. Flynn, president; Lawrence M. Tierney, M. D., secretary; and Harry J. Kenny. Eugene M. Cozzolino, M. D., is the health officer; Walter Murray, the sanitary inspector; and Mrs. Emma Hurley, R.N., nurse.

Health clinics for children of pre-school age are conducted at regular intervals by the health officer. Diphtheria toxin-antitoxin and smallpox vaccine are administered.

The sanitary inspector is charged with periodic inspections of bakeries, barber shops, restaurants, chain stores, and other public places, as well as placarding houses for communicable diseases and caring for complaints relative to unsanitary back yards, junk yards, garbage cans, cesspools, and dumps.

Plumbing inspector, William F. Walsh, is also deputized as assistant health inspector, to care for complaints regarding unsanitary plumbing, wells believed to be polluted, and other such matters.

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS

"An Act Establishing a Board of Fire Commissioners for the First Taxation District of the Town of Orange" was approved by the legislature on May 8, 1919, but has since been amended many times.

The commission consists of three electors, "all residents of the First Taxation District", two of whom are appointed by the board of selectmen, and one elected by the members of the volunteer fire companies within the district. All serve a three-year term of office.

This board controls the activities of the fire department and expenditure of funds allotted annually by the board of finance.

Present members of the fire commission are: George H. Shepard, chairman; George J. Miller (elected by the volunteer firemen); and Hans Broderson.

BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS

West Haven's Board of Park Commissioners was created by Special Act of the Connecticut Legislature on April 24, 1919, which was later amended on April 8, 1931.

This board consists of three members, "electors and residents of the town", appointed by the board of selectmen for a term of three years each, "not more than two to be of the same political party".

HISTORY OF WEST HAVEN

Having complete control over all park properties owned by the town, this board has done much to beautify public lands and to provide recreational centers for children and adults alike. The board also has the power to employ a park superintendent and such maintenance staff as is provided for in the annual budget.

Present members of the park board include: Harley Hodges, chairman; Hugh A. Scallen and J. Frank Doolan. Park Superintendent is Harry Noyes, a former major-league baseball player.

ZONING COMMISSION

On June 12, 1929, the State legislature approved passage of "An Act Authorizing the Town of West Haven to Create a Zoning District". Containing 19 sections, this act empowers the establishment of a zoning commission and a zoning board of appeals.

The zoning commission, consisting of five members, appointed by the board of selectmen for five-year terms, regulates the zoning of the town, recommends the passage of various zoning ordinances, and acts to punish violators.

The board of zoning appeals, composed of five members appointed to five-year terms by the board of selectmen, hear and decide upon appeals from the rulings of the zoning commission or other officials charged with the enforcement of any zoning ordinance.

Present members of the zoning commission are: Charles M. Hobro, chairman; Charles Merriam, secretary; Robert Burrell, Hubert C. Hodge, and Michael Donovan.

Present members of the board of zoning appeals are: Alexander S. Lynch, chairman; Joseph Shrebnick, secretary; Joseph Ciochione, Edward Morrissey, and Elmer E. Newell.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

The earliest known record concerning highway maintenance in this community is shown in the statement of December 27, 1686, wherein it was directed that a road was ". . . to be kept free and open from the mouth of the West Creek to the hay or landing place. . ." This, with other rules and regulations, marked the community's first steps in official supervision and control of its arteries of travel.

DERBY TURNPIKE

One of the earlier of the "good roads" movements affecting West Haven was the formation, in 1798, of the Derby Turnpike Company, a corporation which was to derive considerable revenue from a toll road, running westerly from the State House in New Haven to a spot known as Derby Landing. Much of its route lay within the town. The fact that a fee was to be charged for passage over this highway carried with it an implication of maintenance, which, during an era of ox carts and wooded trails, was assuredly something new under the sun.

TOWN GOVERNMENT

The building of this turnpike ushered in an era of competition in the establishment of similar roads. West Haven had its section, notably Savin Avenue and Milford Turnpike, in operation from 1802 for a period of 73 years, when it was made a free road by order of the town authorities.

Progressing from the deeply rutted ox-cart trails of that period, West Haven today has 127 miles of highway, a large proportion of which is hard surfaced. The flow of vehicular traffic, reaching its peak during the summer months when thousands of visitors pass through the town to Savin Rock, makes maintenance of adequate highways a far greater problem here than in most towns of equal size.

A legislative act of 1931 resulted in the allocation of \$17,500.00 annually to West Haven towards the maintenance of the town highways.

Contrary to general custom, Main Street is not West Haven's principal street. The business and shopping center is Campbell Avenue, a wide, concrete highway of historic importance, running southerly from its junction with the Milford Turnpike to Beach Street at Savin Rock. It was by this route that the British troops marched to West Bridge, there to make their first attempt at the invasion of New Haven; and from its intersection with Main Street can be seen the Town Hall and the historic Green with its two old churches.

In its early days, Campbell Avenue was the scene of a bitter dispute between a newly organized street railway company and certain of the town's more illustrious citizens. The traction people were insistent that their choice of the name "Railroad Avenue" be substituted for "Campbell," the name then in use. Edward E. Pardee, Arthur Benham, and Harry I. Thompson insisted that the name of Adjutant Campbell, noted British officer who fell during the invasion of 1779, should continue to be honored. For a time, there was much determined putting up and taking down of signs on this famous thoroughfare—which today bears the name of Campbell Avenue.

Prominent among the various traffic lanes in the town are Elm Street, Main Street, Jones Hill, Meloy, and Saw Mill Roads, Savin Avenue, and Beach Street. These paved thoroughfares carry most of the vehicular travel within the town.

RUBBISH COLLECTION SERVICE

Inauguration of a rubbish collection service, in 1937, was one of the major accomplishments of the first term in office of the present First Selectman Charles F. Schall.

The six election districts of the town are serviced on separate days, thus assuring a complete service. Household-ers need only place their rubbish containers at the "curb line" in front of their homes on the appointed day. Two huge trucks, with "Collecto Bodies", each manned by a crew of three, are assigned to this duty.

Under the supervision of Highway Superintendent Christopher P. Howe and Assistant Superintendent Herman Bill, this weekly service has met with unanimous favor.

WEST HAVEN FIRE DEPARTMENT

In every early Colonial community in New England, the hazard of fire loss presented one of the most fearful possibilities that the populace had to face. Buildings of inflammable wood, with bone-dry thatch, or hand-split, roofs and very poorly constructed chimneys, and the ever-present danger of forest fires in surrounding timberland, were a threat to the welfare of the community.

At the outbreak of a fire in the settlement, men, women, and children left their tasks in the home or the fields and ran to help extinguish the blaze. Each householder kept a leather bucket, and usually a ladder, in readiness for such emergencies. These were the precautionary measures taken by the citizenry to protect their property. At the call of "Fire!" they brought their own buckets to the scene of the conflagration, formed a line from the well or spring to the flames, and passed the filled and empty buckets back and forth in continuous movement. This method was effective only in extinguishing the smaller fires but was powerless to combat conflagrations that had gained headway before the arrival of help.

In the fall of 1888, when a raging fire broke out at the Hinman Hotel, corner of Beach Street and Washington Avenue, an emergency call for assistance was sent to the New Haven Fire Department, but the hotel burned to the ground before the New Haven apparatus could cover the long distance over the poor country roads. Aroused by the disaster to the possibilities of heavy fire damage, three public-spirited citizens of West Haven organized a volunteer fire department.

ENGINE COMPANY No. 1

Albert H. French, James Fenwick, and George Flagler circulated a petition for a meeting of townspeople to be held in the Thompson Block, on November 18, 1888. At that meeting, the formation of Engine Company No. 1, West Haven Volunteer Fire Department, was authorized.

Dr. William V. Wilson, named as the first chief of the newly formed department, established headquarters in a barn on Washington Avenue, in the rear of Shephard Pharmacy (now Cornell Pharmacy). The first equipment was a "Button" hand pumper, manned by 30 men, 15 on each side, and 2 "Jumpers" (hose reels), equipped with high wooden wheels. The original pumper, still capable of throwing a stream of water over the flagpole on the Green, is now stored in the car Barns on Campbell Avenue. The West Haven Water Company, now extinct, installed several hydrants around the center of the town, in an effort to aid the firemen in combating conflagrations.

Until 1892, considerable time was lost between discovery of a fire and the arrival of the fire fighters. When report of a blaze was received at headquarters, a runner was dispatched to the First Congregational Church to notify

WEST HAVEN FIRE DEPARTMENT

the sexton to toll the bell. By the time the firemen and apparatus arrived at the scene, there was often nothing left to save.

In an effort to improve the service, several hand-operated "crank handle" fire alarm boxes were installed in that year. These were later replaced by the present automatic Gamewell Fire Alarm System.

The present Campbell Avenue headquarters of Engine Company No. 1, with garage space for the engine on the first floor and sleeping quarters, recreation rooms, and an office on the second, was erected in 1893.

The only woman member of the West Haven department was Miss Carrie B. Rockefeller, now Mrs. Charles Peckham, who, when a girl in her teens, seldom missed a fire and was regularly voted a member of the Engine Company No. 1 on November 7, 1895, "for her valuable services in helping to pull the apparatus".

Members of that early fire department were not without a certain sardonic humor, as indicated by the following excerpt from Engine Company records. "January 26, 1895; Box 8, 4:50 P. M. New house on Front Avenue, beyond fire limits. Company went as far as borough line. Loss \$2,000 ..."

THE GRAHAMS

On the evening of January 15, 1892, two groups of firemen met separately to organize hook and ladder companies. Both assumed the name "Hook and Ladder No. 1" and insisted upon the right to use that designation. The controversy was finally taken to court and a decision rendered in favor of the "Grahams", on the ground that they were organized 30 minutes earlier than the second company. The Grahams, named for the late State Senator James Graham who gave them financial aid, purchased a truck and built the two-story building on Washington Avenue adjoining the Church Press, where they established elaborate clubrooms on the second floor.

The organization of a juvenile Graham Company, open to sons of members, for which the Grahams built a miniature replica of their own truck, proved a successful venture, as this junior company won many prizes upon its appearance in parades throughout the State.

THE HOOKS

When the Grahams disbanded on February 16, 1902, the coveted title of Hook and Ladder Company No. 1 was taken over by the rival company, until then Hook and Ladder No. 2, and known as "The Hooks".

"The Hooks" first quarters were in the building at Elm and Water streets, now occupied by the West Haven Oil Company. Their first apparatus, a hand-drawn truck, purchased on February 12, 1892 at a cost of \$275, was replaced by a horse-drawn truck on May 4, 1900. These two companies furnished sufficient fire protection for the central district, but, as they had considerable difficulty in reaching the outlying sections in time to be of service, the need for additional protection was recognized.

HISTORY OF WEST HAVEN

NORTH END HOSE CO. NO. 3 AND SEASIDE HOSE CO. NO. 4

The North End Hose Company No. 3 and the Seaside Hose Company No. 4 were organized in 1895. Headquarters of the North End Hose Company, originally at Spring Street and Front Avenue to protect the northern section of the town, has since been removed to a more modern building on Spring Street.

Through the combined efforts of New Haven business men who had large summer homes at Savin Rock, the Seaside Hose Company (now Savin Rock Hose Company No. 4) was organized for the protection of shore residences. First headquarters were established in a fish market on Grove Street, and, in 1908, the present building on Holmes Street was constructed.

THE FIRE POLICE

In 1899, a uniformed unit, the Volunteer Fire Police, was organized to maintain order and discipline at fires and provide protection against looting. The first group of volunteer fire police included Lawrence Moore, as captain, and G. Bescher, J. Fenwick, J. Nissen, J. Kelly, and C. French.

The Fire Police were active in the social life of the town and regularly sponsored outings at the old Lion Park, which occupied the site of the present William Wirt Winchester Hospital on Campbell Avenue. They were faithful in attendance at fires; no sooner had fire department members arrived at the scene of conflagration than the rallying cry of "Fire Police, Get Together" was heard.

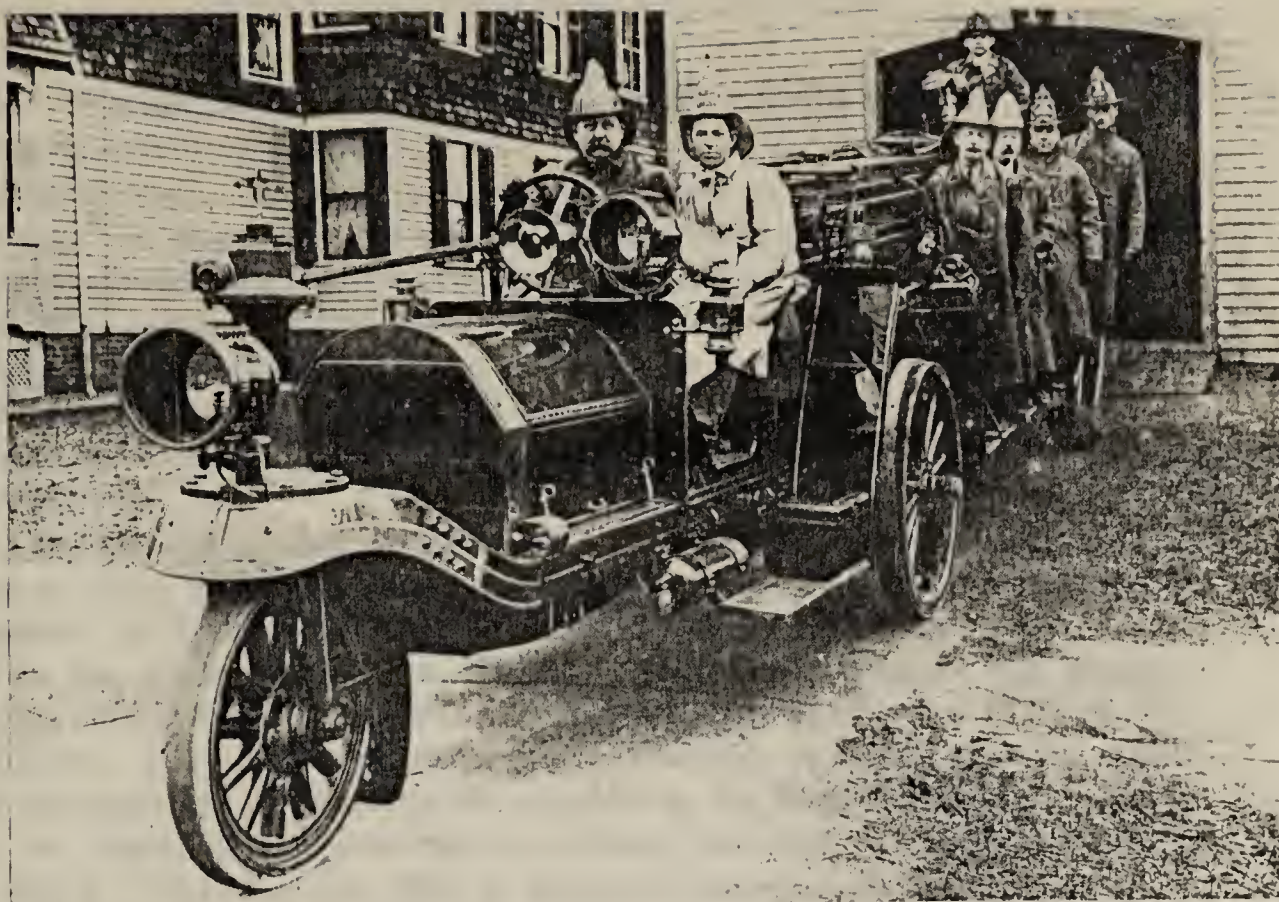
The Volunteer Fire Police functioned until 1913, when the regular police department personnel had been so increased that their services were no longer needed.

The last group of Fire Police to serve the town was under the captaincy of the late Albert French, for many years a member of the board of assessors. This unit included Thomas Halpin, Sylvester Burns, John Schmidt, James Kelley, Harry Pond, Michael Wren, James Reynolds, James Fenwick, and George Bescher.

IMPROVEMENT OF FIRE FIGHTING FACILITIES

After the turn of the century, hand-drawn apparatus was discarded in favor of horse-drawn equipment. The contract for hauling the engine or hose-cart to the fires was eagerly sought by everybody, from the leading contractor to the best liveryman in the town. Rivalry of the companies, each hoping to be the first to arrive at a conflagration, was intense, and they inspired their teamsters with the same enthusiasm for speed.

Between fires, the horses had other work to do and frequently were employed several blocks from the engine house when an alarm was sounded. At the signal the driver immediately unhooked traces, mounted the near horse and rode, circus-fashion, at the dead gallop to the firehouse, where the firemen were impatiently awaiting his arrival. Dogs and little boys followed the galloping



West Haven's First Motorized Fire Apparatus;
Placed in Service in 1912



West Haven's First Uniformed Fire Police;
Organized in 1899 to Do Duty at Fires

WEST HAVEN FIRE DEPARTMENT

horses. Women ran to front gates, wiping their hands on their aprons and looking up and down the road.

Finally, with a clang of bells and the clatter of iron tires on cobblestone pavements, the fire department wheeled by, men hanging onto the hand rails with one hand as they buttoned their coats or adjusted their helmets with the other, horses with rolling eyes and wide, wind-blown nostrils, and the driver, top man of this bouncing cavalcade, digging his heels into the oaken toeboard and straining hard at the taut reins. Motors make better time, but remembrance of the galloping horses of the old-time fire department brings a pang of regret that they no longer run.

After the appointment of the first board of fire commissioners in 1911, four pieces of Knox motorized apparatus were purchased, one for each of the fire companies. It is claimed that this department was the first volunteer fire department in the country to become completely motorized. Two of the volunteer members of the Engine Company were hired as paid drivers, one to be on duty at all times. The number of paid personnel has since increased to seven, including a fire marshal, all of whom are attached to the Engine Company. Shortly after the appointment of two full-time drivers, the chief was placed on a part-time salary. This office was filled at an annual election held by the members of the entire department. In 1936, the salary of the chief was increased to a full-time basis and the post made a permanent one.

Rated highly by fire underwriters throughout the country, the West Haven department has an enviable record as an efficient fire-fighting unit. During the year ending April 30, 1940, property involved in fires, valued at \$543,895.50, sustained a loss totaling \$51,893.

PRESENT FIRE DISTRICTS

Today there are three separate and distinct fire departments within the town of West Haven: the West Haven Fire Dept. (Center District); Allingtown Fire Department; and West Shore Fire Department.

CENTER DISTRICT

Rolling equipment owned by the West Haven Fire Department (Center District) includes (1940):

- 1 Coupe for Fire Marshal.
- 1 Fire Alarm Wagon (truck) for Supt. of Alarms

House No 1, Campbell Avenue, next to Town Hall—

- 1 500 gallon Seagrave Pumper.
- 1 Seagrave-Surburbanite Hook and Ladder (45 foot).
- 1 Emergency Squad Wagon (grass fires)
- Diamond T — 500 gal. pump.

House No. 2, Second Avenue near Elm Street—

- 1 Model "25" Intermediate Aerial Ladder Truck (65 foot).

HISTORY OF WEST HAVEN

House No. 3, Spring Street, between First and Campbell Avenues
(North-Ends)—

1 500 gallon Mack Pumper.

House No. 4, Holmes Street at Hill Street (Savin Rock's)—

1 750 gallon Seagrave Pumper.

ALLINGTOWN FIRE DEPARTMENT

In 1907, the section of West Haven known as Allingtown made plans for organizing a fire company. Work on the wooden structure in Admiral Street was started on Thanksgiving Day, 1907, and the building was dedicated on New Year's Day, 1908.

An improved, hand-drawn apparatus served the department until April 15, 1909, when a horse-drawn combination hose and chemical wagon, constructed by C. M. Hamm, "the village blacksmith", was purchased.

As the water supply was soon found to be inadequate, the district decided, in 1910, to install fire hydrants. A fire tax, levied on the property owners and collectable by the district tax collector, is levied annually for the maintenance of the Allingtown Fire Department and has no connection with the regular taxes paid to the Town of West Haven. An independent board of fire commissioners is regularly appointed by this district.

Peter Wols, who served as captain of the department since its organization, was named the first chief in 1913 and held that office until 1925.

During the early days of the department, fires were reported to the engineer of the American Mills Plant either by telephone or messenger; he immediately sounded the plant whistle to call the volunteers. Motorized apparatus was purchased March 15, 1915. A modern brick building replaced the wooden structure in 1928. The second floor is now a community hall.

The installation of a Gamewell System Fire Alarm in the Allingtown District was completed in 1934, under a project of the Federal Emergency Relief Administration.

Present equipment of this department, still a volunteer unit, consists of two pumpers valued at \$21,745. One pumper carries a 45-foot ladder, Indian tanks, gas masks, and an inhalator.

WEST SHORE FIRE DEPARTMENT

The West Shore Department was organized in November, 1918, through the efforts of John W. Curren and a group of West Shore property owners. Mr. Curren was named the first chief. Prior to the formation of this department when a fire proved too stubborn for the bucket brigade, a phone call was sent in to Engine Company No. 1.

The first headquarters of this department was in a shed at the rear of Prospect Street and Ocean Avenue. An enthusiastic and public-spirited citizen, G. Frank Abbott, contributed the original wooden firehouse at Dawson and

WEST HAVEN FIRE DEPARTMENT

Ocean Avenues to the West Shore Department in 1920. The North End Hose Company loaned this new department a hand-drawn hose truck, which served until 1920, when a motorized pump was purchased.

At the time of the purchase of the second piece of motorized apparatus in 1925, George Schlissel was named district fire marshal on a full-time basis. Captain Russell Bartholomew was appointed a full-time driver in 1931. The chief of the department is elected annually from among the 114 volunteer members and serves without pay.

A PWA grant provided for the construction of a modern, red-brick fire-house, completed in 1936, on the site of the old headquarters. The basement has been fitted out as a rathskeller for community affairs. The installation of a Gamewell System of Alarms was made in 1937, as a Works Progress Administration Project.

MEMORABLE FIRES

Burning of the Horse-Car Barn

On July 3, 1893, a fire completely destroyed the horse-car barn which stood on the site of the present car barn on Campbell Avenue. This wooden building, a block long and one-story high, housed the 200 horses and the cars used on the New Haven and West Haven Horse Railroad.

The fire was caused by spontaneous combustion. Gunpowder, stored there for a Fourth of July celebration, ignited and spread the fire rapidly. When the fire started, the horses stabled there were freed. They galloped out and fell into single file to jog over their customary routes. Some went to New Haven, circled the Green, and returned to the burning barn. The others went down Campbell Avenue, swung around Skeelee's Restaurant at Beach Street, and also returned to the barn. Habit had been stronger than fear. They were finally herded into open lots along Campbell Avenue and Curtiss Place, without the loss of a single horse.

Destruction of the Waddingham Mansion

Among the largest and most spectacular fires in West Haven annals was the destruction of the stately "Waddingham Mansion", on Elm Street, on October 16, 1902. The massive building, valued at \$500,000, containing 44 rooms, was termed "the show place of New England". It was erected by Wilson W. Waddingham, who was credited with having discovered a gold mine in the Black Hills and was a partner in the Emma Mine. Mr. Waddingham was subsequently known as a "Cattle King", owner of cattle ranches in New Mexico, where he was a large landholder. The building, unoccupied at the time of the fire, was then the property of Thomas H. Linehan, New Haven casket manufacturer. The Waddingham estate, bounded by Elm Street, Second Avenue, Fourth Avenue and Wood Street, was afterward sub-divided into building lots.

HISTORY OF WEST HAVEN

H. H. Richards Lumber Company Plant Fire

The H. H. Richards Lumber Company plant in Water Street was destroyed by fire on April 16, 1909. Four houses adjoining the plant were also burned to the ground in this fire, with a total loss of \$75,000.

Hack Saw Shop Fire

On March 8, 1911, fire swept the interior of the West Haven Hack Saw Shop, Elm Street, and razed an adjoining duplex house. The loss was estimated at \$30,000. The fire was caused by the ignition of a vat of oil used to temper hack saw blades.

Church Press Building Damaged

The Church Press Building, a two-story structure, was gutted by fire in April, 1914, with an estimated loss of \$15,000. The fire started in a garage at the rear of the printing shop, worked its way through a connecting shed, and ignited the Church Press Building.

Fifteen Buildings Destroyed

On November 21, 1917, a disastrous fire, fanned by an off-shore wind, destroyed Jackson's "Palais de Dance", corner of Summer and Marsh streets, and the adjoining Wilcox's Moving Picture Theatre, at Beach and Summer streets, eight dwelling houses, and five large barns. Damage reached a total of \$100,000. The West Haven Fire Department, under the late Chief Charles Cameron, had but one pumper at the time and was reinforced in fighting the fire by two New Haven companies. The origin of the fire was reported "unknown".

Car Barns Burn

The West Haven Car Barns on Campbell Avenue were swept by fire on May 9, 1917. The interior of the brick building was destroyed; the estimated loss was \$29,130.

In 1921, there were four large fires. Bishop's Colonnade, in Beach Street, burned with a loss of \$35,000. On April 6, 1921, a large barn in Brown Street near Campbell Avenue, owned by Charles Chamberlin and occupied by the Columbia Enameling Works, burned at a loss of \$5,500. A company employee lost his life in this fire. The famous Orpheum Theatre in the old White City, a 1,200-seat house, was burned on June 26, 1921, with a loss estimated at \$25,000. On August 17, 1921, the barns of D. M. Welch Company, at the rear of the large grocery store at Campbell Avenue and Curtiss Place, were destroyed by fire. Fifteen delivery-wagon horses were destroyed. The loss was estimated at \$8,000.

WEST HAVEN FIRE DEPARTMENT

On November 24, 1923, a fire starting in chemical stock at the Sanderson Fertilizer and Chemical Plant, Wood Street, now the American Agricultural Company, caused damages of \$25,000.

West Haven's most recent big fire, June 11, 1932, raged for twelve hours and resulted in the destruction of extensive water-front property at Savin Rock, with damages of about \$500,000. The Liberty Pier, an amusement concession known as "The Devil", and many booths operated by concessionaires were destroyed. Every volunteer fireman in the district was called out to aid in fighting this fire.

A fire at the West Haven Car Barns, on February 28, 1935, resulted in a \$19,798 loss. Twelve cars, including two snow plows and a sand car, were destroyed. Damage to the building was confined to the roof. The fire resulted from faulty insulation on the wiring of an electric snow plow.

Incident of the Stolen Fire Truck

Many amusing and exciting stories are told by veterans of the volunteer fire companies. Probably the tale most retold is the story of the stolen fire truck.

When Arthur Travis was fire chief of the four central fire companies in 1918, the board of finance voted the purchase of a 750-gallon Seagrave Pumper for the Savin Rock Hose Company. Center Engine Company members were irked that such a fine new fire engine should be given to the smaller company at the Rock. Accordingly, when Joseph Casner, the department mechanic, was sent to the Savin Rock firehouse to deliver gas for the new pumper, he stole the pumper, drove it away, parked it in the Engine Company's house, and disconnected the battery.

The resulting furor in the two fire companies subsided only after Fire Chief Travis secured a temporary injunction from the superior court, restraining First Selectman Sherman and Mechanic Casner from holding the apparatus. Within twenty-four hours the stolen engine was back in its proper quarters, where there was much rejoicing, as it was the only fire apparatus the company owned.

WEST HAVEN POLICE DEPARTMENT

From the organization of the Borough in 1873, until 1911, a police committee of three members appointed by the Warden and Burgesses had charge of local police. Constables performed police duty until 1897, when the first uniformed policeman, Robert W. French, was appointed. In the 41 years since that time, the department has increased to 88 members, including one chief, one captain (detective), one desk officer, three sergeants, one detective-sergeant, 11 Grade A patrolmen, 7 Grade B patrolmen and 63 Grade C, or supernumerary, patrolmen. This growth was necessitated in a large degree by the development of Savin Rock as an amusement resort.

Robert W. French, the first member of the force was promoted to sergeant May 12, 1908, and became the second chief June 24, 1921. He is now retired.

In 1898, the second member, John M. Loomis, was added to the force. He became a Sergeant in 1901 and was made the department's first chief on May 12, 1908. He is now on the retired list. The present chief, Harry W. Tuttle, appointed on May 1, 1924, is the third to hold that office.

The oldest patrolman of the force in point of service in that capacity, Thomas J. Kennedy, was appointed on June 1, 1901 and was retired in 1939.

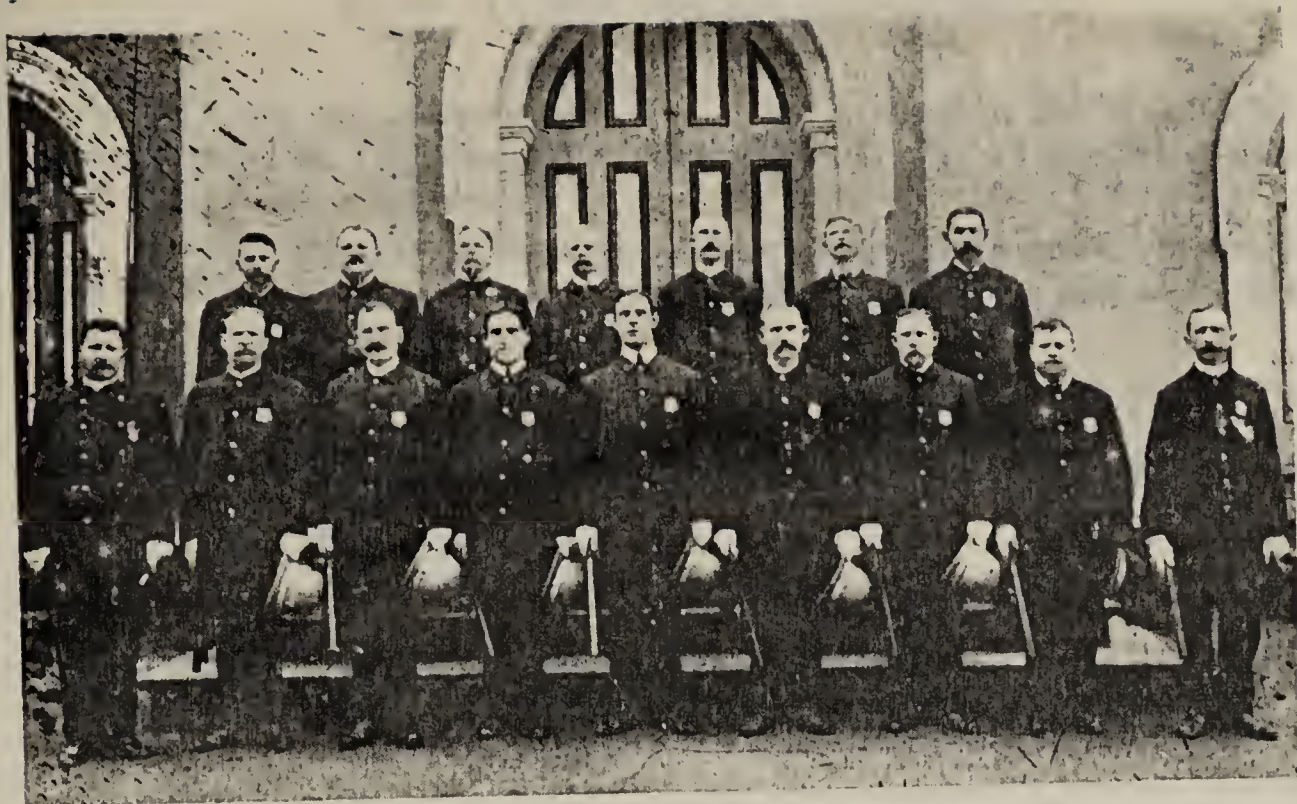
From 1904 to 1912, the West Haven Police Department had one mounted officer, Walter N. Scranton, the only mounted patrolman ever appointed on the force. His beat was along the water front from Second Avenue to the Milford line at Oyster River. One of his duties was to retrieve hot-air balloons that had been released from the "White City", when parachute jumpers were popular at Savin Rock.

Captain James Tiernan, now retired, was appointed June 4, 1907, promoted to sergeant June 4, 1911, and advanced to captain on February 29, 1928. His application for retirement because of ill health was granted November 11, 1935.

The board of police commissioners was created by legislative act on October 13, 1913. The first board, appointed by First Selectman John Wilkinson, included James S. Harlow, chairman; Charles W. Scranton, former chairman of the old police committee; and Charles Stormont. The present commissioners are John Curran, chairman, Carl Harcke, and Charles Clare.

The police retirement fund, established by legislative act in 1921, provides for the retirement on half-pay after 25 years of service of any member of the force who has reached 60 years of age. An amendment passed in 1937, grants one-half retirement pay to surviving wife or children, on the death of a retired member of the force.

Under the regime of Chief Tuttle, many improvements have been made and the equipment of the department has been modernized. A detective bureau has been established, traffic lights have been installed on main highways, an ambulance-patrol car has been purchased, one motorcycle patrol and three



West Haven's Guardians of Law and Order as They Appeared in 1903



Walter N. Scranton, West Haven's Only Mounted Patrolman;
He Covered the Waterfront, Second Avenue to Oyster River 1905—1910

WEST HAVEN POLICE DEPARTMENT

modern squad cars, equipped with radio tuned on the New Haven police wavelength, patrol the 118 miles of West Haven streets. Chief Tuttle has also added 40 supernumerary patrolmen.

In 1930, Chief Tuttle installed the Henry fingerprint system, a modification of the Bertillon system, and has recently added photographic equipment, so that West Haven now has its own rogues' gallery.

The Revolver Club, organized 1937, under the direction of Albert C. Murphy, an expert pistol shot, has materially increased the quality of police marksmanship. Regulations now require all members of the department to engage in weekly revolver practice.

REVOLVER TEAM (West Haven Police)

Since the organization of a police revolver team, West Haven police, hitherto comparatively untrained men, have been shooting favorable scores. The accuracy of the department members in the handling of revolvers has increased a hundred per cent. The department now has five qualified instructors, expert pistol shots, all of whom are members of the department, and is represented by teams in two leagues.

In the New England Police Revolver League, the West Haven Police have four teams of five men each, competing in the weekly matches; and in the Connecticut Revolver League (southern) a team of eight men shoots the course weekly. The five highest scores are computed for the average.

The pistol range, on the second floor of the Town Hall, was built almost entirely by department members in their spare time. It consists of ten firing points and is one of the best equipped and largest indoor pistol ranges in the State. The outdoor range on Bull Hill Lane, rebuilt in the spring of 1940, has 20 firing points.

Civilian shooters are permitted the use of the range on three nights a week, and the following organizations, whose teams are members of the Connecticut Revolver League, take advantage of the opportunity: West Haven Fish and Game Club, St. Lawrence Holy Name Society, and the Pine Tree Club. These organizations have the services of qualified police instructors as coaches.

Shooting for "record" is required once a year, in April. In 1939, the department qualified six experts; eleven sharpshooters; and ten marksmen. Scores necessary to hold the various ratings include: expert 255 or better with a 38-calibre revolver; sharpshooter, 234 or better with a 22-calibre revolver; and marksman, 180 or better with a 22-calibre revolver.

In an effort to encourage better marksmanship among the local police, the West Haven Chamber of Commerce, in 1937, at the suggestion of Albert Murphy, manager of the West Haven Branch of the First National Bank, offered a trophy for high score to be inscribed annually with the winner's name. The trophy, a figure of a policeman holding a revolver at arm's length, mounted on an oblong base, is 20 inches high. Two spread eagles are mounted on the outer edges of the 12-inch base to balance the upright figure. All members of the

HISTORY OF WEST HAVEN

West Haven Police Department, including supernumeraries, are eligible to compete for this prize in the competitive shoot conducted annually in September. The man obtaining the highest aggregate score is declared the winner, and his name is engraved on the trophy, which is kept on display in the chief's office.

The winner in 1937 was Sergeant Gustave Misbach; in 1938, Supernumerary Patrolman Millard Tibbetts; and in 1939, Sergeant Misbach.

Medals awarded by the New England Police Revolver League for the current year were presented by Chief Harry Tuttle, at a meeting of the department attended by the police commissioners, on May 21, 1940. Supernumerary Patrolman Millard Tibbetts was awarded the gold medal for "high aggregate score for Connecticut". Clerk Robert Hadden received a silver medal for "highest in Class 6"; and Sergeant Gustave Misbach, a bronze medal "for coaching winning teams".

Two of the four teams representing the department in this league won medals in league competition. Team No. 1, consisting of Sergeant Misbach, Patrolman John Monahan, and Supernumeraries George Osborne, Millard Tibbetts, and Carl Petersen, won second place in Class No. 3 and received bronze medals. Team No. 4, comprised of Patrolmen Edmund Bradley, Harold Burns, Howard Leslie, and Supernumerary Kurt Otto, were awarded silver medals for first place in Class No. 10.

EDUCATION

First mention of a schoolhouse in West Haven is contained in the records of the Ecclesiastical Society of the First Congregational Church. In 1742, money was raised by the sale of town lands, and it was voted that the amount of 328 pounds, 5 shillings, 10 pence be approved for the year for the support of the school "until the end of time, unless the government ordered to the contrary".

According to the Jurisdiction Records of 1661, a schoolmaster of the period was paid a total of 60 pounds per annum, the majority of these payments being made as follows: 30 bushels of wheat, 2 barrels of pork, 2 barrels of beef, 40 bushels of Indian corn, 30 bushels of pease, 2 firkins of butter, 100 pounds of flax, and 30 bushels of general foods.

As the population of the village increased, additional school facilities were needed. In 1805, the Southern District urged the erection of a new schoolhouse on the Green, but it was "voated" not to build the proposed school on this location. That vote was evidently reconsidered, and the building was authorized, "in any place around the Green within forty feet of the line of the squair". Erected in that same year, the building was still standing on the Green in 1857 but was not in use after 1849, when the classes were consolidated with those of the Union Avenue School.

UNION SCHOOL

For many years prior to 1860, Union School, a two-room wooden structure with a graceful belfry and bell, and a noisy chain water pump, stood on the plot of land at Union Avenue and Center Street, where the present brick Union School now stands. During the 1880's, three wooden schools successively stood on this site. English, Latin, astronomy, and algebra were among the subjects taught; all materials, including text books, were furnished by the students. Slates were used instead of paper and pencil.

For several decades after 1860, summer as well as winter terms were held. In 1861, the salary of a teacher, Dealer M. Smith, is recorded as \$76 for a summer term. The cost of operating Union School for that entire year was \$392.60.

WALDENSE SCHOOL

Another link in West Haven's early system of education was the little Waldense School, at Morgan Lane and Benham Hill, established in the Western District in 1829. This typical country school was at first supported by a dozen families, each household in turn sharing the responsibility of boarding the teacher. Two instructors were annually employed, a female instructor for a period of five months, starting with the first of May, and a male teacher for four months, starting after Thanksgiving.

HISTORY OF WEST HAVEN

To maintain the Waldense School, in 1829, the Western School District levied a tax of nine cents on the dollar, and gave each proprietor the privilege of paying one-half the tax in timber and labor; timber was valued at the appraisal of the carpenter, and labor at "6 cents an hour when called by the committee for the same".

The original building was $15\frac{1}{4} \times 30 \times 9$ feet. A second Waldense School erected several years later was $20 \times 30 \times 12$ feet, and covered with pine boards at the sides. As protection against the cold winds of winter, there were no windows on the north side of the building. On the other sides were five tiny windows, with 3×5 "lights"; the underpinning was laid in lime mortar.

A vote of the school district was required to "set up" school for the two terms, and parents of each scholar over 4 and under 16 years of age were taxed according to the number of days the pupil attended school. The district customarily ruled that "No Scholars Shall Be Entitled To Free Money That Are Over 16 And Shall Pay Their Tax". In 1839, the school district voted a teacher's salary of \$1.75 a week, and estimated the cost of board at \$1.25 per week, "each one having the privilege to board his part as near as can". A vote was also taken to designate those who should furnish the cord wood for fuel, and the price was stipulated at \$7.25 per cord for walnut wood, cut to fit the stove.

The school was governed by a district committee of one member, whose duties consisted of general supervision, hiring the teacher, and purchasing the fuel. At a school district meeting on March 6, 1871, hesitancy was shown in allowing one week's vacation during the summer term, the vote in favor being qualified, "if, and when the committee shall deem it for the interest of the school".

The perplexing question at a district meeting on July 14, 1879, was the teacher's irregularity in starting school in the morning; as a result, E. E. Benham was named to superintend the commencing of school. Teachers were paid \$7 per week at that time and sessions were held in summer, fall, and winter.

As larger quarters were necessary in 1897, the district school committee sold the little building to John Lyman, who commandeered 11 pair of oxen to move the structure over rough roads to 311 Savin Avenue, where it is now in use as a dwelling. During that summer a new school, 30×40 feet, was erected. Operation of this little district school came to an end in 1920, when the pupils were transferred to the Colonial Park School. On August 29, 1925, the school building went under the auctioneer's hammer and was sold to James H. Mills.

This old school also is now in use as a residence.

SCHOOL DISTRICTS

In 1845, there were four school districts in the town of Orange, and by 1874 the number had doubled. Of these, three were in West Haven; Union, Northern, and Western districts; they functioned as individual districts until consolidated in 1926. Since then, the town schools have been operated as a single district.

EDUCATION

In the early days, each district was controlled by a district committee and was under the supervision of a board of school visitors. These school visitors, who were elected to the office, made periodical inspections of the schools, investigated the work being done, and offered suggestions.

In 1899, there were four school houses in the Union School District with 1,055 pupils between 4 and 16 years of age. The other two West Haven Districts had one school house each, with a total of 411 pupils.

In that year, the Union School District was reorganized under a board of education. Other school districts continued under supervision of the board of school visitors until 1926, when schools were consolidated, and supervision of all schools was transferred to the board of education. A legislative act of 1927 provided that the West Haven Board of Education have six members.

The four-room Campbell Avenue School, built about 1893, in the section then the Northern School District, is the last of West Haven's wooden school buildings. For many years before the erection of this structure, a small, crude schoolhouse stood on the site. A two-room school also was conducted on Smith Place.

HIGH SCHOOL

A two-year course of instruction in high school subjects was first given in 1899 in the old wooden Union School building. The first class of five pupils occupied a room together with the eighth grade. When the Union School, a two-story brick building with a tower, was erected on Center Street in 1890, the high school pupils were transferred to that building.

There was no high school graduation in 1896, as the course was changed to three years. In 1909, a fourth year was added.

For several years, the need for a new high school building was apparent, but it was not until November 11, 1925, that construction was started.

The new high school, at 270 Main Street, opened in 1927 with an enrollment of 596 students. Registration increased to such an extent in the succeeding years that double sessions became necessary. During the past year, 1,832 students were enrolled. The largest graduating class on record was the class of 1934, numbering 327 students.

Seth G. Haley, a graduate of Bowdoin College, was named principal of the high school in September, 1919. Among his accomplishments was the adoption of an athletic program, which gained such impetus by the year 1922 that the appointment of a physical director became a necessary step. Francis Fitzgerald was named to this post, which he still holds.

EXPANSION AND IMPROVEMENTS

In June of 1898, Edgar C. Stiles of Hartford, a former principal of the Seymour schools, was made superintendent of West Haven schools. Mr. Stiles served the West Haven school system until his death in 1933. At that time Mr.

HISTORY OF WEST HAVEN

Haley was appointed superintendent, and D. Webster Belcher was named principal of the high school.

In 1902, when need for a school was felt in the southern section of the town, the Washington School, at Washington Avenue and Noble Street, was erected; it was replaced in 1921 by a 16-room structure, named the Noble School.

Washington School, the largest grade school in West Haven, a 19-room building, was built at Washington Avenue and Brown Street, in 1909.

Between 1900-1910, expansion and improvements in the school system were notable. In 1903, a new course of study was prepared for all schools. The Brown and Campbell schools were enlarged, and eight rooms added to Union School; in 1910, kindergartens were established.

The Colonial Park School was erected in 1920, and in 1935 a large addition was built with P. W. A. funds. A school committee of seven, appointed in 1920, was in charge of this school until June 15, 1926. In the following fall, the town's three school districts were consolidated.

ALLINGTOWN DISTRICT

Not for several years after the 1926 consolidation of school districts was another school building necessary in this area.

In 1937, the four-room Lampson School, built in 1897, was demolished. Its pupils were transferred to the First Avenue School, an eight-room structure built in 1921. This building, the second brick schoolhouse in Allingtown, had been preceded by the eight-room Forest Street School, made necessary in 1912 by an influx of families from neighboring communities.

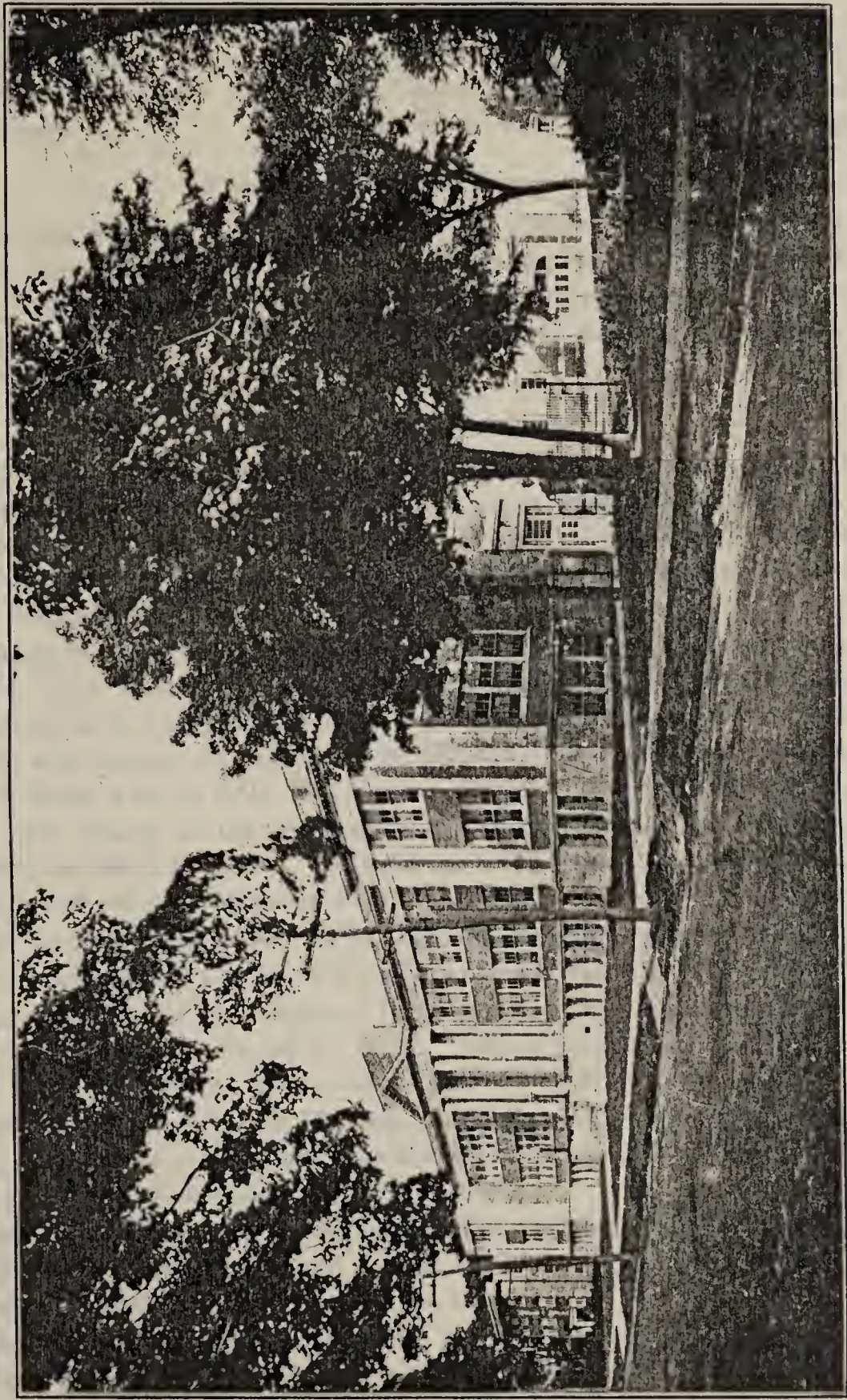
In 1929, a greatly increased population made necessary the building of the nine-room Lincoln School, which was followed by an eight-room addition to the Forest Street School, in 1933.

The Edgar C. Stiles School on West Main Street, named in honor of the school superintendent, opened in September, 1931. Its facilities include a loud speaker in each class room, connected with a radio in the principal's office. The institution is a fitting tribute to a man who devoted untiring efforts to the West Haven school system.

Cost of operating West Haven schools for the fiscal year ending April 30, 1940, was \$586,462.08. Of the total amount, \$414,965.38 was furnished by the town from the general tax and \$171,496.70 by the district tax.

Schools in use in 1940:

Noble School	152 Washington Avenue at Noble Street
Washington School	369 Washington Avenue at Brown Street
Union School	176 Center Street at Union Avenue
Campbell Avenue School	1204 Campbell Avenue at foot of turnpike (opportunity)
Colonial Park School	63 Seaview Avenue at Overlook Avenue
Lincoln School	25 Ogden Street—off Fairfax Street



West Haven High School, Main Street; Opened in 1927

EDUCATION

Edgar C. Stiles School	West Main Street
Forest Street School	25 Forest Street at Orange Avenue
First Avenue School	840 First Avenue at Dana Street
Thompson School	165 Richards Street—east of Campbell Avenue
St. Lawrence School	Main Street at Union Avenue (Parochial)
High School	Main Street—east of Washington Avenue

PAROCHIAL SCHOOL ESTABLISHED

Through the efforts of Father Jeremiah Curtin, a 12-room grade school, at Main Street near Union Avenue, was erected in 1917 by St. Lawrence's Roman Catholic Parish. This building, an eight-grade school, has a seating capacity of 420 pupils. The Reverend Arthur C. Cavanaugh is now (1938) principal of the school.

PRIVATE SCHOOLS

The Seaside Male Seminary, a preparatory school, operated from 1859 to 1878. It was organized by R. Quincy Brown and taken over, in 1866, by Luther H. Northrup. Under the latter's guidance, many foreign pupils were enrolled from Cuba, Chile, Peru, and China, and the seminary established a reputation for the instruction of Orientals.

Among the Chinese students prepared for Yale at this school was Tatotai Jeme Tienyow, later famous as the engineer of the Peking Hsiang Railroad, the first railroad to be built entirely by Chinese. Other Chinese graduates include Lo Kocksui, who became an engineer with the Ning Hsiang Railroad in Huan, and Owyong King, who, in 1903, was Chinese Vice-Consul in San Francisco.

A rare catalog of the seminary states that "Students disciplined here are admirably qualified for Farm, Work Shop, Sales Room, Counting House, Shipping Office or the more classical institutions".

The seminary was disbanded in 1878 and the building was used as a boarding house for summer visitors at the shore. It was torn down in 1923.

The Commercial and Classical Boarding and Day School for boys, at 415 Savin Avenue, was conducted by W. F. Thomas from about 1855 until the late 1870's, when the Thomas family moved from West Haven to Ohio.

According to legend, Mr. Thomas always carried a carpet bag for his books, papers, and various articles, and was known as "Carpet Bag Thomas". He was assisted by his wife in conducting the school.

Among well-known West Haveners who attended the school were the late E. E. Bradley, Cyrus Tuttle, and Dennis A. Kimberly, who was burgess of the Borough of West Haven from 1888 to 1891.

The Phelps Nursery School, in the Phelps Homestead at Campbell Avenue and Elm Street, has been conducted since 1934 by Miss Marjorie Phelps. Pupils ranging in age from two-and-one-half to four-and-one-half years, are taught instructive games, co-operation, and work that prepares them for entrance to kindergarten. The school is open from September to June.

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THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF WEST HAVEN

In the early days the West Farms section, now West Haven, was a parish of the Congregational Church in New Haven. As the community grew, the settlers felt the need of a church of their own, and, since they were confident of their ability to support a separate ecclesiastical society, petitioned in 1711 for the right to establish their own church. Many objections were raised by the people of New Haven, but the General Assembly finally granted the desired authority. In 1715, the territorial bounds were fixed, and, in 1719, the Church Society was granted a State charter. Those self-reliant settlers were not without justification of their faith in themselves, for, unlike many other parishes, this one was immediately able to erect a church and to supply it with a pastor.

Some of the settlers believed that the best site for the church would be at the foot of Shingle Hill, but the wisdom of choosing a more central location was recognized, and the first church edifice was erected in 1719 on the site of the present West Haven Green, then low, marshy land overgrown with alders, given to the community by Samuel Candee and Shubael Painter. According to the custom of that time, the meetinghouse was designed for a double purpose, as a place of worship, and for the uses of civil authority.

This first meetinghouse of wood, 36 x 48 feet in size, was a very plain and small structure, with exposed rafters. Entrances were placed at both ends, and a main doorway on the west opened into the aisle opposite the pulpit, over which a sounding board was suspended. This meetinghouse had neither a steeple nor a bell; a drum was beaten to call the people together for service or the affairs of the Society. Two meetings were held each Sabbath, with a brief intermission between for lunch and an opportunity much needed, during the winter, to get warm, as the meetinghouse was not heated. Some people owned foot stoves or carried heated soap stones with them, but such comforts were generally frowned upon as vanities.

The early records of the church were destroyed by the British in the raids of 1779 and 1781, but the records of the Ecclesiastical Society, from 1724 on, are preserved at the State Library in Hartford.

The first minister, Samuel Johnson, who served from 1720 to 1722, was relieved of his duties in 1722, when he announced his intention to go to England to take orders in the Church of England.

Jonathan Arnold, the second minister, ordained in 1725, was active in increasing the membership of the church. During his pastorate, it became necessary to enlarge the seating facilities, and, in 1729, galleries were constructed at the sides and rear of the meetinghouse. In 1734, Arnold, like his predecessor, turned to the Episcopal doctrine. The church was without a pastor until 1738, when the Reverend Timothy Allen was ordained. But he, too, later professed

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his sympathy for the cause of the Episcopal Church and was relieved of his duties in 1742.

The Reverend Nathan Birdseye officiated as pastor from 1742 until 1758. He was followed in 1760 by the Reverend Noah Williston, who continued to serve the church over a long and eventful period. In 1752, the meetinghouse needed repairs, and it was necessary to levy a special tax. In 1764, the structure was adorned by the addition of a steeple, where a bell was hung in 1774.

During the British raid of 1779, the British attempted to capture Mr. Williston, because of his staunch views on freedom from English jurisdiction. In his effort to escape, he fell and broke his leg, while running toward the woods at the rear of his house. Undoubtedly, he would have paid for his patriotism with his life, had it not been for the mercy of Adjutant Campbell, the British officer in charge of that particular body of troops, who spared Williston's life and ordered a British surgeon to set the broken leg. Adjutant Campbell went on to meet his own death during the fighting at West River bridge. A monument to his memory stands on the crest of Allingtown Hill.

During the Revolutionary War, the original church fund was lost, and once more the members tried to raise funds for the maintenance of the church. Two funds were started, by subscription, in 1801; one as a "Salary Fund", amounting to 770 pounds; the other a "Standing Fund", amounting to 232 pounds, established as a reserve. In 1806, a few building improvements were necessary, and a small amount of money was voted for the erection of horse sheds behind the church. In 1825, when the Eagle Bank of New Haven failed, the church lost \$2,900. By 1837, the church funds totaled \$6,000; the society owned the church, a parsonage, and about five acres of land.

The first meetinghouse was used for 134 years. In 1851, a second edifice was constructed, at a cost of \$4,500. Captain Ichabod Smith bequeathed \$200 for the purchase of instruments to improve the church music, in 1851. A small portable organ or melodeon was obtained and was among the furnishings rescued from the fire that destroyed the building in 1859. In 1860, the present church on the Green was erected at an approximate cost of \$10,000.

In 1867, a pipe organ was installed in the back gallery. The interior of the church was remodeled in 1891, and an organ alcove was built at the back of the pulpit platform. The old organ was replaced in 1898, by one from St. Paul's Church, New Haven, at a cost of \$975.

In 1915, a three-story, red-brick addition was completed, facing on Campbell Avenue, to serve as a Sunday school and for recreational purposes. The third floor of this structure is given over to a gymnasium, complete with locker rooms and showers.

In 1919, at the two-hundredth anniversary of the founding of the church, \$9,700 was raised for the purchase of a new instrument. The new organ was dedicated to the memory of the "Sons of the Church" who served during the World War.

Present membership of the church, whose pastor is the Reverend Dr. Roy D. Boaz, approximates 1500, and the Sunday school enrollment is about 700.

HISTORY OF WEST HAVEN

UNION CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

In 1890, a group of Allingtown residents, organized for religious services under the direction of Mr. Samuel P. Thrasher, erected a small church, the Gospel Union Chapel, on Campbell Avenue near Orange Avenue. At the dedication on Sunday, December 7, 1890, the Reverend Dr. Twitchell of Dwight Place Congregational Church, New Haven, and other prominent clergy, officiated. At the conclusion of the dedication ceremonies, it was announced that the chapel was free from debt.

Until 1918, Sunday school and evening devotions were conducted by Yale Divinity School students. On April 18, 1918, the edifice was renamed the Union Congregational Church, and the Reverend Archibald Bedford was appointed the pastor. At that time, a Sunday service at 10:45 A. M. was established.

In 1922, the church was enlarged to its present size, a one-story, white, wooden building. In 1930, the Reverend Mr. White was succeeded by the Reverend Leroy S. Allen, who served the church until 1935, when the Reverend Dwight S. Large received a call as pastor. Mr. Large remained one year; in October, 1936, the present pastor, the Reverend Harold L. Lunger, came to the church. In the event of the pastor's absence services are conducted by his wife, the Reverend Alberta Lunger.

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The founding of the Episcopal church in West Haven in 1723, and the building of the church in 1739-40, were events of far-reaching importance. Throughout the Connecticut Colony, the Congregational church opposed the infiltration of Episcopalianism, suspicious that the church might seek to become established here as in England. When announcement was made at Yale Commencement in September, 1722, that the college president, Dr. Timothy Cutler, with Samuel Johnson, pastor of the West Haven Congregational Church, and five prominent associates, had declared for the Church of England, the equanimity of the entire Colony was shaken. In Quincy's history of Harvard University, he writes, "The event shook Congregationalism throughout New England like an earthquake, and filled all its friends with terror and apprehension."

Johnson sailed for England where he was ordained in 1723, at the church of St. Martin-in-the-Fields, London. When he returned, he organized the West Haven parish, the second in the State. For many years thereafter, the New Haven Episcopalians, having no church of their own, attended service in West Haven. Mr. Johnson was rector of the church until 1737, when he was succeeded by the Reverend Jonathan Arnold. Mr. Arnold also had previously been a pastor of the Congregational Church in West Haven but had since embraced the Episcopal faith, in which he was ordained in 1736. In 1737, he was appointed a missionary by the "Society for Propagating the Gospel in Foreign Parts" and was given charge of the parishes of West Haven, Derby, and Waterbury. Under his direction, the building of the church was begun.

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In 1740, the Reverend Theophilus Morris, formerly of England, assumed charge of the same three parishes. Although the church edifice was completed in 1740, it was not consecrated until May, 1842, more than a hundred years later.

On Easter Day, 1827, the Reverend William T. Potter became rector of the parishes of West Haven, North Haven, and East Haven, with 140 families and 96 communicants under his charge. During the pastorate of Mr. Potter, many members of the church moved from West Haven, and, by 1830, there were only 42 families in the parish and 58 communicants. Many of those who remained were seamen who were seldom at home, and the rest, becoming discouraged, dismissed Mr. Potter on Easter, 1830, and closed the church.

Services were resumed in 1837, when the Reverend Stephen Jewett of New Haven was engaged to devote half his time to the West Haven parish. Until 1845, the West Haven parish shared its minister at various times with New Haven, North Haven, East Haven, Branford, and Milford; in that year, the Reverend A. C. Chaplin became the first full time rector of Christ Church. From 1839 to 1845, Mr. Chaplin had lived in New Haven, dividing his time between that parish and West Haven.

In 1840, under his leadership, \$960 was collected to repair the old church, which, according to his report, had "dilapidated walls and broken windows and decaying floors." The church was reopened on June 27, 1841, and in May, of the following year, it was at last consecrated.

During the pastorate of the Reverend H. B. Whitney (1886-1895), many improvements were made. The church was redecorated, the heating and lighting system improved, a new organ was installed, and a new rectory acquired, but in spite of these many improvements, the old building was inadequate, and the need of a new one became more pressing.

After the Reverend A. J. Gammack became rector in 1900, the movement for the building of a new church was given impetus by Mrs. Lucy Boardman, who offered a gift of \$25,000 for that purpose, on the condition that the parish raise a like amount. Starting with a building fund collected during the rectorate of the Reverend Edwin S. Lines (later Bishop), 1874-79, which had grown to a sum of \$4,400, the remainder of the necessary money was raised. Mrs. Boardman increased her gift to \$30,000, and the present building was erected in 1909. The edifice, with a short square tower and cloister, regarded as one of the finest Gothic churches in Connecticut, was designed by Bertram G. Goodhue.

Since 1909, when the Reverend Floyd Steele Kenyon, formerly assistant at St. Paul's Church in New Haven, was called to the parish, Christ Church has more than doubled its membership and has enjoyed its most prosperous era. Shortly after Mr. Kenyon became rector, the Chapel of the Good Shepherd was established in Tyler City (Orange), where a disused school house was purchased and remodeled. In 1912, a parish house, connected with the chapel, was erected at a cost of \$10,000.

A few years later (1917), Christ Church Parish House was built at a cost of \$40,000. Its large clubroom in Jacobean style (on which about one-third of

HISTORY OF WEST HAVEN

the total cost of the building was expended), one of the finest in the New Haven area, serves the community as well as the parish.

In 1923, the parish celebrated its 200th Anniversary with a three-day celebration attended by the Bishop of Aberdeen, Scotland, one of whose predecessors consecrated the Right Reverend Samuel Seabury, first bishop of an American diocese, in 1784. During the anniversary celebration, a new gymnasium, added to the parish house at a cost of \$20,000, was opened, and the parish house at Tyler City was dedicated.

Among the many activities of the Reverend Mr. Kenyon and his parishioners, which have benefited the entire community, was the establishment in 1917 of Camp Washington, a Boys' Camp at Bantam Lake, Connecticut. This camp, with accommodations for about 70 boys, is conducted on a nonprofit basis, with charges regulated to cover costs only. Through the efforts of Mr. Kenyon, A. Douglas Coe, camp director and son of the senior warden of Christ Church, and the contributions of many church members, Camp Washington is one of the best-equipped boys' camps in the State. Its assembly-and-dining hall is a reproduction of Mount Vernon.

ST. MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS

During the Reverend A. J. Gammack's rectorate, special services were conducted in the hall at Oriental Park for the benefit of members of the parish resident in that section. In 1907, Mrs. Martha Ellen Pruden purchased land for \$1,420 and gave it, as a site for a chapel, in memory of the Reverend Samuel Johnson, the first rector of the parish. The cornerstone of the chapel was laid by Mr. Gammack, May 3, 1908, at the corner of Washington Avenue and Park Street, and, on June 19, 1911, the building was dedicated and named St. Martin-in-the-Fields, for the church in London where Samuel Johnson had been ordained. As many of the timbers of the old Christ Church were used in its construction, one of the speakers at the dedication referred to it as "at once the newest and oldest church in Connecticut."

ST. JOHN'S-BY-THE-SEA PARISH

A mission parish of Christ Episcopal Church, called St. John's-by-the-Sea, has been organized in the West Shore section of the town. The West Shore Fire Department permits this parish the use of its auditorium on Ocean Avenue for weekly services.

METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Prior to 1868, Methodist preachers and laymen from New Haven held services in West Haven. Weekly "class meetings", at which members of several denominations united in worship, were held at the home of Henry H. Richards, a member of the Congregational church.

The first meeting to consider the organization of a Methodist Episcopal Society, and the erection of a church in West Haven, was called on July 5, 1868, by W. A. Cross. Eight persons were present: Messrs. Bassett, Chapman, Eames, Smith, William and Charles Armstrong, Thomas, and Cross. The meeting was

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opened with prayer by Mr. Bassett. Mr. Chapman was appointed chairman, and Mr. Cross secretary; a committee of three was appointed to secure a place to hold public worship.

Commencing on August 2, 1868, the Reverend J. W. Felvus, a local preacher, began holding Methodist-Episcopal services regularly Sunday mornings and Thursday evenings in Thompson's Hall. A Sunday school, with 23 members, was started August 23, 1868, and on September 8, 1868, the Reverend Charles Fletcher of the First Methodist Church in New Haven preached and received into membership 10 persons by letter and 19 on probation. A board of trustees, six members, was elected, and \$2,000 pledged toward the building of a church. The first "Quarterly Conference" was held here April 18, 1869. The Reverend J. W. Felvus was pastor until April, 1870.

Nevertheless, plans proceeded rapidly for the erection of a church edifice, and the corner stone was laid August 16, 1870. That same year, the building, a wooden structure erected at a cost of \$10,000, was completed; an auditorium was erected in 1881, at a cost of \$4,500. Of the population of West Haven in 1870, only 31 were members of the Methodist-Episcopal Church and 10 were probationers.

No provision had been made for a large Bible school or for meetings of the various church societies, so, as the membership of the church grew, the demand for added facilities became urgent. At the annual meeting of the officers and teachers of the Bible school, in October, 1900, it was decided to start a building fund. The original donation for this purpose, collected at the Christmas entertainment, amounted to \$33.31. A public appeal for funds for a new Sunday school building and repairs on the church was made in 1907. The sum of \$10,000 was pledged and of that, \$4,500 was used toward rehabilitation of the old structure. The remainder was put aside as a building fund.

In 1914, plans for a new church were drawn; the next year the building fund was increased to \$20,000, and members voted to proceed with the building. The old church was torn down, and the cornerstone of the new one laid by Bishop Luther B. Wilson on November 27, 1915. The cost of the new church, completed the following year, at Second Avenue and Center Street, amounted to about \$45,000.

Present pastor of the church is the Reverend Ernest Wall.

ST. LAWRENCE CHURCH (R. C.)

Until 1886, the Catholics of West Haven worshiped in New Haven at St. John's Roman Catholic Church and at the Sacred Heart Church. A mission parish was established here, in April, 1886, under the jurisdiction of the Reverend James Larkin, pastor of Milford. Mass was first celebrated in West Haven at the Borough Headquarters in the Thompson Block.

The cornerstone of the first edifice of St. Lawrence Church, a wooden structure, was laid by the late Right Reverend Bishop Lawrence McMahon, in 1886.

HISTORY OF WEST HAVEN

Father Larkin continued to serve in West Haven until October 14, 1892, when the West Haven mission reverted to the parish of Sacred Heart, New Haven. Three years later, May 1, 1895, the Reverend Jeremiah Curtin was named the first resident pastor of St. Lawrence Roman Catholic Church. He served as pastor for 41 years.

Father Curtin, beloved by members of every denomination, came to West Haven when it was but a comparatively small community. During the early years the parish numbered about 200; today there are more than 4,000 parishioners, although the parish has since been divided twice. During the first years of his pastorate, when roads were poor, and travel difficult, his parish included all of West Haven, Orange, Westville, and Bethany. His ready wit and congenial character made him many friends. He was public spirited and ever willing to lend a hand in the service of the community. For 35 years, he gave the benediction at the Memorial Day services in Oak Grove Cemetery.

The cornerstone of the brick St. Lawrence Church, at Main Street and Union Avenue, was laid in 1903. St. Lawrence Chapel, at Summer Street and Savin Avenue, was opened for services in 1910; during the summer months, Sunday Mass is celebrated at the Chapel at 8:30 and 10:30 A. M.

June 29, 1933, Father Curtin celebrated his Golden Jubilee of Ordination. Among those attending the Mass of Thanksgiving were the Most Reverend Maurice F. McAuliffe, Bishop of the Hartford Diocese, and the Right Reverend Monsignor Thomas, pastor of St. Patrick's Church, Washington, D. C. In July, 1933, Father Curtin was feted at a reception at the West Haven High School Auditorium and at a dinner at Savin Rock, attended by persons of all religious denominations. The veteran pastor said of the many celebrations, "I have received more honors than the Pope of Rome."

Fifty-three years of priestly labors, forty-one of which were spent as pastor of St. Lawrence Church, ended March 11, 1936, when the entire community was saddened by news of his death. First Selectman Charles F. Schall paid him the following tribute: "The Rev. Jeremiah Curtin was one of West Haven's most beloved and outstanding citizens. His name was linked with the life of the town. His graciousness and unfailing wit made him a legion of friends. He was a personal friend of mine and enjoyed the respect of all."

Business activities were suspended and town hall offices were closed during the pontifical High Mass of Requiem that was celebrated by Bishop Maurice F. McAuliffe. The Mass was attended by more than 300 priests of the diocese, State and town officials, civic and political leaders, and members of the parish.

After Father Curtin's death, his assistant, the Reverend Michael Thompson, was administrator of the parish until April 30, 1936, when the Reverend Arthur G. Cavanaugh, the present pastor, was appointed. For many years, Father Cavanaugh, a native of Rockville, Connecticut, had been an instructor in St. Thomas Seminary, Hartford, and, at the time of his appointment, was pastor of Sacred Heart Church, Suffield, Connecticut.

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During the first year of his service, he made many improvements on the church property and paid off \$6,000 of the church debt. He established a weekly Novena, held on Tuesday evenings, to St. Therese, the Little Flower. Father Cavanaugh also directs the activities of St. Lawrence Parochial School opposite the church. Next to the school is a large, two-story, red brick building used as a convent for the nuns who teach in the school. The rectory, a two-story wooden structure, is adjacent to the church. Masses at the church are celebrated on Sunday mornings at 7, 8, 9, 10, and 11 o'clock; on holy-day mornings at 5:30, 7, 8, and 9 A. M.; and on the first Friday of each month at 5:30, 7, and 8 o'clock A. M.

ST. PAUL'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

St. Paul's, the second Catholic parish established in West Haven, was taken from St. Lawrence parish and included the northern section of West Haven and all the territory within the Town of Orange. The establishment of this parish on September 22, 1916, was necessary because of the large number of Catholics in the northern section of the town.

The parish was organized by the late Reverend Francis M. Murray, who had done semi-missionary work in the State, and Mass was at first celebrated in Harugari Hall, Campbell Avenue. Shortly after the parish had been created, a one-story brick church was built on First Avenue at Alling Street, with a rectory on Alling Street.

Father Murray, later a pastor of St. John's Church, New Haven, was succeeded in 1926 by the Reverend Michael P. Barry, who had been pastor of Sacred Heart Church, Wethersfield, and chaplain of the State Prison, from April, 1919.

Father Barry purchased for the parish the old Redmen's Hall on First Avenue and transformed the building into an assembly hall. St. Paul's Chapel, on Orange Avenue near Tuthill Street, was opened for services in October, 1937. Another chapel in Allingtown, on Fenwick Street, known as Our Lady of Mount Carmel, was built in 1924. The death of Father Barry in December of 1939 came as a sad blow to the parish, as he had formulated many plans for its future development.

The present pastor, Reverend James E. Dargan, appointed on January 25, 1940, is a native of Bridgeport, Connecticut, and was ordained to the priesthood in 1918. Father Dargan had been the pastor of St. Bernard's Roman Catholic Church in Sharon, Connecticut.

Masses in St. Paul's Church, First Avenue, are celebrated on Sundays at 7:30, 8:30, 9:30, and 11 A. M.; on holy days at 6, 7:30, 8:30, and 9:30 A. M.; and on the first Friday of each month at 7 and 8 A. M.

OUR LADY OF VICTORY ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Our Lady of Victory parish, Prospect Beach, was created to serve the needs of the greatly increased Catholic population in the western section of West

HISTORY OF WEST HAVEN

Haven. The parish was organized, in 1935, by the Reverend John W. Walsh, who served for many years as a curate at Sacred Heart Church in New Haven. The spirit of cooperation shown by the whole community has greatly aided the pastor in his labors in the new parish.

Colonial Inn, on Ocean Avenue, for many years a summer hotel, was purchased and remodeled for use as a church, and the first Mass in the western district was celebrated in this building on November 10, 1935. The first floor of the building is used as a church and the second floor as an assembly hall. Alterations now under way will provide for a larger seating capacity. A dwelling near by, on Tyler Avenue, was purchased as a home for the pastor. Our Lady of Victory corporation has expended over \$75,000 in purchasing and improving the property.

Masses at the church are celebrated on Sundays at 7, 8:35, 10, and 11 A. M.; on holy days at 7 and 8 A. M.; and on first Fridays at 7 A. M.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF WEST HAVEN

Prior to 1890, Baptist services were conducted at various intervals in the homes of West Haven residents. During the years 1896-99, cottage prayer meetings were frequently conducted by the Reverend John Cameron, who was doing postgraduate work at Yale University.

When the Baptist Church in New Haven, Howard Avenue at Rosette Street, was disbanded, stipulation was made that money derived from the sale of the property could be used in the erection of a Baptist church, provided it was used within a limited time. West Haven Baptists were prompt to take action, and with the aid of the Reverend Charles J. Marchant organized a parish and held their first services in the Masonic Temple, Center Street, on November 14, 1915.

On December 14 of that year, the Reverend Marchant was appointed the first pastor of the First Baptist Church of West Haven and served until his death on November 26, 1919. The Reverend W. H. Wakefield, named as his successor, began his duties on April 11, 1920. The cornerstone of the church was laid on December 11, 1921, and the first services in the new building were conducted in the church basement on March 5, 1922. The dedication of the edifice took place on October 1, 1922. The church is partially supported by the Connecticut Baptist Convention.

The Reverend W. H. Wakefield remained as pastor of the church until February 3, 1924. His successor, the Reverend Bernard D. Adams, commenced his duties on July 6, 1924. His services in West Haven continued until June 30, 1928. The next minister to occupy the pulpit was the Reverend Elvin C. Daniels, who was appointed to the post October 14, 1928, and continued in that capacity until June 29, 1930.

The present minister, the Reverend Edwin T. Settle, Jr., received his appointment on November 16, 1930.

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The order of Sunday Services is as follows: Sunday School at 9:30 A. M., Worship Service at 10:45 A. M., and the Young People's Society at 6:45 P. M.

The First Baptist Church is planning an elaborate celebration for the Silver Jubilee of its organization, on November 14, 1940. Town officials, former pastors, and church leaders will be guests.

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH OF WEST HAVEN

The first Lutheran services in West Haven were held in 1910, in a building on Center Street near Union Avenue, by the Reverend C. M. Esbjorn, who was pastor of the Bethesda Lutheran Church in New Haven. A Sunday school was conducted every Sunday, and services held on alternate Sundays. When the Reverend Esbjorn died in 1911, the supervision of the West Haven Mission was taken over by L. J. Benson, and G. K. Andeen, students at the Yale Divinity School.

The Reverend Carl H. Nelson, who became the pastor of the Bethesda Lutheran Church in New Haven in 1913, then also assumed the duties in the West Haven Mission. At that time, the place of worship was changed to the Thompson Block, on Campbell Avenue. The Reverend Nelson organized the Lutheran parish in 1920 and continued his work until 1923, when he accepted a call from a community in the Middle West.

From 1923 to 1928, the local church was affiliated with St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Ansonia. Dr. Vergelius Ferm, a graduate of Yale University, took over the West Haven services in 1923. The property at Campbell Avenue and George Street was purchased for \$2,400, and the wooden edifice was erected at a cost of \$11,000. The church was dedicated on November 16, 1924.

The Reverend A. D. Mattson became the pastor in 1926 and remained until 1928, when the Reverend Nelson returned to take charge of the parish once more.

The First Lutheran Church was originally organized to serve the needs of the Swedish people of the community, but it has long since cordially opened its doors to all races. The services are conducted in English. There are 233 communicants, but it is still a mission church, inasmuch as it receives aid from the Augustana Synod.

The pastor, the Reverend Carl H. Nelson, a native of Stockholm, Sweden, has lived in the United States for the past 50 years. He studied for the ministry at the Augustana Theological Seminary, Rock Island, Illinois, and was ordained by the Augustana Synod at New Britain, Connecticut, in 1907.

WEST HAVEN JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER

Until 1929, West Haven Jews had no house of worship here. Previously Jewish services had been held occasionally in private homes, but, generally, local residents of the Jewish faith attended the various temples in New Haven. In January, 1929, a small group of West Haven Jews organized to raise funds

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HISTORY OF WEST HAVEN

to provide a building where services could be conducted, and meetings and socials could be held.

The group that sponsored the movement for erecting a one-story building on New Street, now known as the West Haven Jewish Community Center, included: Mr. and Mrs. Saul Alderman, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Shiner, Mr. and Mrs. David Shanbrom, Mr. and Mrs. Isadore Podheiser, Mr. and Mrs. Abraham Horwitz, Mr. and Mrs. Herman Horowitz, and Mr. and Mrs. Morris Krall.

West Haven Jewish Community Center was incorporated on February 1, 1929; the first officers named were: Saul B. Alderman, president; Morris Krall, vice-president; M. Ginsberg, secretary; and Edward Shiner, treasurer. The first rabbi called was D. Gris, who served for two years. His successors have been: Rabbi David Genuth, 1931-33; S. Winters, 1933-34; M. Maskin, 1934-36; and the present incumbent, Max Newman.

Affiliated with the center is a Ladies' Auxiliary, the Kadimah Club, Boy Scout Troop No. 6, Girl Scout Troop No. 36, and a study or reading club. The West Haven Probus Club, a civic group comprised of West Haven businessmen, hold their business sessions at the Center.

Present officers of the Center are: Joseph Susman, honorary president; Joseph Hoffman, president; Barney Kornman, vice-president; M. Danziger, treasurer; and H. Newman, secretary.

Services at the Center are held on Saturday morning at 9:30 o'clock, while Sunday school, where the youthful members of the congregation are instructed in the history and language of the ancient Hebrews, is held on Sunday morning at 10 o'clock. Special services are held on the important holy days of Rosh Hashana (New Year's), Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement), and Pesach (the Passover).

PARKS, PLAYGROUNDS, AND ATHLETIC FIELDS

West Haven is favored with a park system of unusual scope, area, and beauty, for a town of its size. The community is awake to the necessity of providing facilities for residents who seek outdoor recreational opportunities within the limits of their own township. Approximately 75 acres of land are devoted to parks, playgrounds, and recreational purposes.

WEST HAVEN GREEN, in the center of the town, bounded by Campbell and Savin avenues, Church and Main streets, is owned by the First Congregational Church Society but is cared for by the Park Department. Like other New England town greens, this plot has been the center of much of the town's social and political activity.

PAINTER PARK, some 45 acres on Kelsey Avenue at the head of Chestnut Street, bounded on the west by Cove River, was purchased in part by the township in 1922, to establish a children's playground. Additional lands were donated by heirs of the Painter family and by Frank L. Nason. Recreational facilities of this park include: sports fields, three ball diamonds, bleachers, and tennis courts. The three fields are extensively used for baseball, softball, football, and track events. The six tennis courts are adequate to meet the demand. The picnic area is much used by organizations for their annual outings. This park also provides a setting for annual school pageants.

During the winter of 1939, an excellent ice skating rink was constructed on baseball diamond number three. Using the services of eight National Youth Administration employees, the park department erected a log fence, about 125 yards in length and 200 feet in width, along the bank of Cove River. As the diamond at this location is about 30 feet lower than diamonds one and two, it proved ideal for the purpose. A stairway, leading from the upper level to the new rink, was also constructed. The total cost of the project, including lumber, truck hire, and labor, was under \$200.

On December 28, 1939, the enclosed area was flooded by the fire department, with water donated by the New Haven Water Company, and the rink was opened for use the following day. This addition to the town's recreational facilities provides safe skating, where the depth does not exceed four inches, and serves to keep school children away from the dangers of deeper ponds.

BAYVIEW PARK (sometimes called Main Street Park), on Main Street at Bayview Place, was formerly equipped with playground apparatus but is now used only as a softball field.

PHIPPS LAKE PICNIC AREA, also called Shingle Hill Park, a tract of about four acres at the head of Phipps Lake off Main Street on Shingle Hill, is provided with fireplaces, tables, and a pavilion, for the use of the many picnic groups who seek relaxation in the park during the outdoor season.

HISTORY OF WEST HAVEN

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PARK, on Third Avenue at Jones Street, three acres of playground for small children, is supervised by a qualified playground instructor during the summer months. In addition to playground apparatus, the park is supplied with material for the teaching of arts and crafts.

MORSE PARK, about an acre and a half of salt meadow, is in process of development. This land, donated to the park system by Frederick L. Morse, will serve as a playground when properly filled. Located on the west side of Old Field Creek, south of Blohm Street, opposite Chamber of Commerce Park, this tract is to be added to 17 acres of salt marshes that are also under development in that area. The possible construction here of a huge municipal athletic stadium is under consideration. If those plans are carried out, the entire area will be joined under one name, not yet determined.

ABBOTT PARK, a part of the Dawson estate and formerly called Dawson Park, a small rectangular plot opposite the West Shore Fire Department's quarters on Ocean Avenue, was created from filled swamp lands. The park department has landscaped the area, and the West Shore Progressive Association has donated a play pole.

ALLING PARK, a small triangular plot on Orange Avenue at the foot of the Milford Turnpike, donated by the Alling family, contains a play pole erected by the Allingtown Fire Department.

NORTH END FIELD, at the junction of First and Campbell avenues in the rear of the Wehle Brewery, and owned by the Wehle Brewery Company, has been cared for by the park department since 1924. This park provides an ideal field for sandlot baseball teams and is used by various groups, who obtain permission from the department.

HOGGAN FIELD, a tract on Highland Avenue, loaned by the owner for recreational use by the children of the West Shore, is maintained by the park department.

ALLINGTOWN FIELD, 7.1 acres at the western end of Taft Avenue, set aside by the American Mills Company as an athletic field, was deeded to the town in May, 1940, in lieu of taxes. For several years, this field has been maintained by the park department.

TREMONT PARK, covering ten acres on Chestnut Street, willed to the town by the late Mrs. Edward A. Ray in 1938, is the latest addition to West Haven's park system. The donor stipulated that this property should be maintained and preserved as a mecca for nature lovers. Planted with beautiful shrubbery, and with rock formations left in their natural state and incorporated in the landscaping plans, Tremont Park will provide a peaceful refuge at the edge of the resort area. Mothers, small children, and elderly folk will here find quiet and seclusion. According to present plans, a suitable memorial to the donor will be erected at the entrance to the grounds.

PARKS, PLAYGROUNDS, ATHLETIC FIELDS

TWO PUBLIC BATHING BEACHES are maintained by the park department, one at Cove River and the other at Oyster River. Both are protected and well policed during the season. From June to September, a member of the supernumerary police force is assigned to each of these beaches.

WEST HAVEN INSTITUTIONS

West Haven's institutions, although few in number, have played an important part in the history of State and local welfare.

METHODIST HOME

The earliest charter for a semipublic institution here was granted in 1874 to Sylvester Smith, a prominent Methodist, who started a movement to establish a church home for aged members of his denomination. But not until 1919, long after his death, was the charter acted upon. In that year, the Julius Coe residence at 111 Elm Street was purchased, and the Methodist Church Home was established under the guidance of a board of directors, including both men and women.

The home opened with seven women and one man registered as guests. In 1929, facilities of the institution were enlarged by the purchase of the adjoining property and the building of a brick addition, a gift from the Blakeslee family as a memorial to the late Charles W. Blakeslee. The present registry exceeds 30 men and women, whose average age is 80 years. Careful arrangements are made for their comfort, medical attention, and entertainment.

The men of the board of directors are responsible for the upkeep of the structural property of the institution, and the women members assume control of interior maintenance. Mrs. Jennie N. Lewis, present matron, is employed under the direction of the women's section of the board of directors.

NEW HAVEN COUNTY HOME

The New Haven County Home, built at the top of Milford Hill in 1909, is the only county-owned home for the care of orphans and children without suitable homes in New Haven County. Several hundred other wards of the county are cared for in boarding homes. This \$630,000 plant, composed of a group of Colonial style buildings, with modern equipment, on a 20-acre tract of land at the intersection of Campbell Avenue and Boston Post Road, annually cares for an average of 150 boys and girls between the ages of 6 and 18.

Education, through the eighth grade, is provided in the home's grammar school; high school pupils attend the West Haven High School, where many of them have proved exceptional scholars and athletes. Buildings of the institution include a central dining hall and dormitories.

A conscientious effort is made to provide a homelike atmosphere. Mrs. Esther N. Wolfe, superintendent of the home, has included many group activities in her program, including scout troops, drum corps, and baseball teams.

This home was first organized in 1884, when it was located in the section known as Tyler City, now a part of southeastern Orange. Two years later, increased facilities were necessary, and the home was moved to New Haven,

WEST HAVEN INSTITUTIONS

where a building was secured on Bassett Street at Shelton Avenue. A constantly growing enrollment forced the county commissioners to urge the construction of a new institution in 1907, which resulted in the choice of this excellent site on high ground overlooking the city of New Haven.

WILLIAM WIRT WINCHESTER HOSPITAL

William Wirt Winchester Hospital, at 892 Campbell Avenue, for the care of tuberculous patients, erected at a cost of more than one million dollars, was completed in 1917, with funds provided by Mrs. William Wirt Winchester for the construction of a memorial to her husband.

The New Haven Hospital Society in 1909 received \$300,000 from Mrs. Winchester of Menlo Park, California, for the construction of a tuberculosis hospital. In 1911, the society purchased 44 acres at Lion Park, West Haven. Mrs. Winchester donated an additional \$300,000 in 1912, and a sanatorium with 100 beds was completed and opened. Further gifts in 1913 amounted to \$302,427.99, in addition to \$25,000 for a memorial gateway in honor of the late William Wirt Winchester.

During the World War, the United States Government leased the hospital for the care of tuberculous and wounded soldiers. In 1927, the New Haven Hospital resumed control of the plant for the exclusive use of tuberculous patients.

CAMP HAPPYLAND

Camp Happyland, sponsored by the General Hospital Society of Connecticut and directed by New Haven Hospital, for the care of tuberculous children during the summer vacation period, occupies a 17-acre tract of land at the rear of the William Wirt Winchester Hospital on Campbell Avenue.

The camp provides strict dietary and recreational supervision for approximately 100 boys and girls, between 5 and 15 years of age. Originally established in New Haven in 1911, the camp was moved to its present location in 1926. Its activities are materially supported by donations from the city of New Haven and from such organizations as the New Haven Kiwanis Club, West Haven Women's Club, and the Employees' Tuberculosis Relief Administration. The Visiting Nurse Association assists in carrying on the work. In 1931, the New Haven Kiwanis Club provided funds to construct a concrete wading pool on the camp site and installed a pit of sea sand for the use of the younger children.

HENRY WRIGHT MEMORIAL COTTAGE

The Henry Wright Memorial Cottage at 481 Ocean Avenue, owned by Yale Divinity School, provides a meeting place for students and faculty of the school and members of various church groups, who assemble there for discussion, prayer, and relaxation. Meals are served, and students may make reservations for the night. The gracious homelike surroundings provide an excellent atmosphere for meetings of young people's groups, who are brought here for

HISTORY OF WEST HAVEN

religious instruction by student pastors, stationed in near-by communities. During the summer, many students of the Yale School of Nursing rent rooms at the cottage for a pleasant respite near the shore.

The Cottage was presented to the Divinity School in 1924 by friends of the late Henry Burt Wright, Ph.D., who was Stephen Merrell Clement Professor of Christian Methods at Yale from 1914 until his death in 1923.

WEST HAVEN LIBRARY

The West Haven Library, dedicated in 1909, was built through the efforts of the members of the Village Improvement Association and funds made available by the Carnegie Foundation. The building, erected at a cost of \$10,000, contains approximately 12,000 volumes. The Graham Room, equipped with a small stage, and available for the use of school children, was the gift of Miss Marguerite Graham in memory of her father, Charles Graham. Miss Ora Mason, librarian, succeeded Mrs. Robert Hart Lewis, who had served in that capacity for 30 years.

Two branch libraries have been established, one in Allingtown and another at Prospect Beach.

WEST HAVEN POST OFFICE

The West Haven Post Office, 589 Campbell Avenue, a red-brick and limestone building of modern Colonial design, erected at a cost of \$65,000 under a P. W. A. grant for public buildings, was completed in 1937. A sum of \$85,000 was appropriated for the land, building, and equipment. Before moving to the new quarters, this branch of the New Haven Post Office, occupied the building at Campbell Avenue and Center Street.

The staff of 24 employees, 17 of whom are carriers, are under the direction of Superintendent Jacob Jacobs, who has served in that capacity for 29 years. Almost the entire area of the town is serviced with two mail deliveries daily.

The southern interior wall of the Post Office is decorated with an historical mural, *Crossing the West River—1648*, executed as a Federal Arts Project by Miss Elizabeth Shannon Phillips and installed November, 1937. The mural depicts a group of settlers fording the West River, their household effects in wagons drawn by two head of cattle. A horse led by one of the pioneers carries a woman with a baby in her arms. West Rock is seen in the distance.

BANK

The West Haven Branch of the First National Bank and Trust Company of New Haven opened for business on November 2, 1936. This branch, known as a "neighborhood institution", occupies the building at Campbell Avenue and Center Street, previously used by the former West Haven Bank and Trust Company.

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Main Library at Ward's Corner; Dedicated in 1909;
Endowed by the late Andrew Carnegie



Sewage Disposal Plant; Built with P. W. A. Grant;
One of the Most Modern in the State of Connecticut

WEST HAVEN INSTITUTIONS

Providing complete banking facilities for West Haven residents, this branch bank is under the management of Albert C. Murphy, who has been connected with the parent institution in New Haven since 1918. The First National Bank of New Haven, organized under a newly enacted National Bank Act, was given Charter No. 2 issued on June 20, 1863, and still operates under this original charter.

WEST HAVEN FRATERNAL, CIVIC, AND SOCIAL ORGANIZATIONS

ANCIENT FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS

The oldest fraternal organization in West Haven is Annawon Lodge No. 115 of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, organized June 15, 1873. According to tradition, the Indian Chief, Annawon, possessed a Masonic emblem and, thus, was the first West Haven Mason.

A brick Masonic Temple, of modern Colonial design, one of West Haven's most imposing structures, was erected at 304 Center Street in 1912. In 1923, a two-story addition was built. Providing all modern facilities for lodge meetings, this building is equipped with a pipe organ and a complete modern kitchen. The main lodge room is 40 by 76 feet.

Lodge membership (1940) exceeds 800 members.

EASTERN STAR

In 1891, the sister organization of Annawon Lodge, the Golden Rod Chapter No. 34, was organized with a charter membership of 34. Mrs. Emma Howland was the first matron, and John Mar the first patron. The membership, more than 600 at present, shares the Masonic Temple with Annawon Lodge.

KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS

Wilmot Lodge No. 5, Knights of Pythias, organized June 24, 1903, held its first meetings in the Masonic Hall then in the Thompson Block. In 1922, the lodge erected its own quarters on Curtiss Place.

PYTHIAN SISTERS

Oak Temple, No. 2, Pythian Sisters, an auxiliary of the Knights of Pythias, was organized March 26, 1919. This order has increased its membership from the original 45 members to well over 100. Meetings are held in the Pythian Lodge Hall.

KNIGHTS OF WASHINGTON

Founded here in 1909 by the Reverend Floyd Kenyon and Charles G. Chamberlin, the Knights of Washington has become an organization of international scope, which has grown within the membership of Episcopal churches throughout the United States and Canada. The order promotes good citizenship and a better understanding of the tenets of the Episcopal church. Military titles, similar to those used in the U. S. Army, are conferred upon officers of the or-

WEST HAVEN ORGANIZATIONS

ganization, and a uniformed rank is maintained. A special room called the "Armory" is reserved by Christ Episcopal Church for monthly meetings of the Knights of Washington.

HARUGAURI LIEDERTAFEL

The Harugauri Liedertafel, or Singing Society, formed in New Haven in 1875, combines many of the purposes of a civic organization and a fraternal order. After the society's rooms in the old Wood Block in New Haven were swept by fire in 1910, the organization erected its present two-story, red brick building at 1082 Campbell Avenue, West Haven, in 1912, on land acquired several years previously by its president, Conrad Scholl. The clearing and reclaiming of the eight acres of club property was undertaken by the membership.

ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS AUXILIARY

The Ancient Order of Hibernians Auxiliary was formed in 1912 by a group of local women of Irish extraction. This order, which at present includes 75 active members, meets regularly at 481 Campbell Avenue.

IMPROVED ORDER OF RED MEN

Tountonomoe Tribe No. 57, of the Improved Order of Red Men, was organized in 1911, and the first installation of officers was held at the Town Hall in 1912. Soon afterward, headquarters were established in "Red Men's Hall" at the corner of Brown Street and Washington Avenue, which is still used for meeting purposes.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Father Curtin Council, No. 2541, Knights of Columbus, was organized July 11, 1924, in the basement of St. Lawrence Church under the leadership of the late Daniel L. O'Neill. Mr. Herman Bill was elected first Grand Knight of the order. Headquarters were maintained in the old Thompson Block for several years, until moved to 324 Main Street. The order's present headquarters is at 395 Campbell Avenue. From a charter membership of 82, this society now has more than 300 active Knights enrolled.

THE BENEVOLENT AND PROTECTIVE ORDER OF ELKS

The youngest but one of the largest fraternal organizations in West Haven is the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, No. 1587. Formed in 1927, with a charter membership of 57, the local order has grown to a present membership of about 300. The early meetings were held in the Clarence Thompson School Auditorium and, later, at headquarters the organization purchased at 265 Main Street. In January, 1929, the Elks moved to the former Florence Crittenden Home on Campbell Avenue, but returned to the Main Street headquarters in 1936. The lodge holds annual Flag Day exercises, participates in civic activities, and each year holds a ball to raise funds for welfare work.

HISTORY OF WEST HAVEN

WOMAN'S RELIEF CORPS

Formed in 1911, Augur Mansfield Woman's Relief Corps is the oldest veteran-auxiliary organization in continuous existence in the community. The women of the Relief Corps at first concerned themselves with service to Civil War veterans and their families but, in recent years, have participated in the work of community welfare.

AMERICAN LEGION

Hughson Post of the American Legion, founded in 1919, with Ralph E. Hart as the first commander, is West Haven's link in a world-wide organization of veterans of the armed forces of the United States who served during the World War. The Post owns a building on Curtiss Place and has established an enviable record for community welfare accomplishment. During the early days of the depression, in 1929, the Post conducted a soup kitchen under the supervision of Charles F. Schall. The War Memorial on the Green was secured for the community by members of this organization. Sponsoring a Boy Scout Troop and a Sons of the American Legion Post, and with representation on several committees concerned with community welfare work, Hughson Post exerts a powerful influence in local affairs.

The Auxiliary, formed in the same year, is also active in community life.

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

The Stiles Woodruff Post, No. 1684, of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, received its charter in 1929. This "gold stripe" veterans' organization is composed of members who saw service in foreign lands during the World War, as well as veterans of previous wars who served outside the territorial limits of the United States. Participating in civic affairs and welfare activity, the Post also joins with the other veterans organizations in Memorial Day celebrations. A Women's Auxiliary is connected with the Post.

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

Disabled American Veterans, Chapter No. 18, was incorporated in 1933 with a membership of 33. To be eligible for membership in this organization, veterans must have served in the armed forces of the United States and received injuries or wounds in line of duty.

The Women's Auxiliary connected with this chapter has a membership of about 50. Both groups meet in the State Armory.

VILLAGE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Organized in 1905, the Village Improvement Association has made noteworthy progress in promoting better sanitation, policing, and park facilities, has secured improved service from public utilities, and was instrumental in forming a library for the community.

WEST HAVEN ORGANIZATIONS

COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Under the name Central Council of Social Agencies of the Town of Orange this organization was first formed in 1921 for the purpose of establishing a central welfare agency. Proposing to provide aid for "those who do not come within the jurisdiction of a town or church agency," establishing better relations between citizens and social service case workers, the council has become an important factor in the rehabilitation of the unfortunate and underprivileged.

In 1922, support was received from the New Haven Community Chest, of which the local organization is now a member. In 1934, under a new constitution, the Community Council was incorporated under its present name. Trained social workers are in charge.

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

After the founding of the Village Improvement Association, a score of active civic organizations and clubs were formed. Some are devoted to improving local conditions in specific sections of town; others are concerned with improving business conditions, with politics, or have been formed simply for recreational purposes.

The leading groups, not previously mentioned, with the date of founding, are as follows:

- West Shore Progressive Association, 1918
- West Haven Republican League, 1926
- Italian-American Club, 1928
- West Haven Garden Club, 1929
- Savin Rock Progressive League, 1929
- Connecticut Federation of Women's Democratic Clubs, 1929
- West Haven Democratic Club, 1929
- Parents and Teachers Association, 1930
- Salvation Army, West Haven Unit, 1930
- Rotary Club, 1930
- Aimes Point Club, 1932
- Stevens-Heights Community Club, 1932
- Probus Club, 1932
- Minor Park Improvement Association, 1932
- Allingtown Civic Association, 1933
- Cosmos Club, 1933
- West Haven Chess Club, 1934
- West Haven Fish and Game Club, 1934
- Lake Phipps Association, 1934
- Sea Bluff Civic Association, 1935
- Giuseppe-Massini Club, 1935
- West Haven Scholastic Sports Association, 1937

HISTORY OF WEST HAVEN

REVOLVER TEAM (West Haven Fish and Game Club)

Several of the members of the West Haven Fish and Game Club organized a revolver team of ten members in November, 1938. During the first year, matches were scheduled only with other independent teams, but, in December of 1939, the unit joined the Connecticut Revolver League and since has participated in the regularly scheduled matches of the league.

This league, whose membership includes most of the police pistol teams in the State, is composed of five groups of four teams each. Each team shoots a match once a week; medals for the high team in each group are provided by the league.

The team representing the West Haven Fish and Game Club practices each Monday night on the West Haven Police Pistol Range in the Town Hall, under the coaching of Police Sergeant Gustave Misbach, an expert pistol shot.

Matches are conducted at indoor ranges during the winter and outdoor ranges during the summer.

Present (1940) membership of the team includes: John E. Guetens, Captain; Louis Hamelin, Secretary-Treasurer; E. Harrington, Leonard Nolan, Steven Tabor, G. Reoch, A. Benson, and Byron A. Guthrie.

WEST HAVEN BOYS' CLUB

Early in 1939 the West Haven Park Commission, by direction of First Selectman Schall, took over a building at 295 Thomas Street, owned by the Connecticut Savings Bank, for use as a Boys' Club, upon an absolute grant of use for 14 months with a 60-day termination clause. In payment for the privilege, the town abated all back taxes owed by the bank on this particular piece of property. It was agreed that the building itself was of practically no value, and that negotiations would be conducted later with the Connecticut Savings Bank to take over title to the land.

The Boys' Club project had been discussed for many years. The need for such a facility for the handling of youth problems in West Haven had passed beyond the debatable stage and was generally conceded.

With the cooperation of the National Youth Administration, who provided a supervisor and workers, the old building was practically demolished and rebuilt. The work of remodeling was completed in early summer, and the official grand opening held on July 31, 1939.

The park department purchased the necessary new furniture, and citizens of the town were very generous in their donations. Pool tables, radio, table games, ping pong, books, and magazines were among the many articles received as gifts.

Continued Cooperation of the National Youth Administration supplies a full-time supervisor and 9 assistants, each of whom work a total of about 50 hours a month. There is no cost to the town for the services of any of these men, hence operating costs of the club are held to a minimum.

WEST HAVEN ORGANIZATIONS

On the first floor of the eight-room building are the large auditorium, two small game rooms, and a large cloak room. On the second floor are a library, ping pong room equipped with two full sets, and three meeting rooms for the use of small groups. On the grounds are an outdoor basketball court, volleyball court, and horseshoe court; in the vacant lot on the west side of the building, baseball and football practice is conducted.

The club is open from 10 A. M. to 9 P. M. daily except Sundays.

In the 1939 season, the club was represented on the gridiron by a well-coached team in the 150-pound class. The present basketball team in the unlimited division is showing great promise. A baseball team wearing the colors of the organization is a member of the West Haven Twilight League.

Situated as it is in the heart of the Second District (Savin Rock), this club meets a vital need that had been felt for many years. John E. King, club supervisor, was formerly a football coach of the Branford Laurels and the Wallingford Walcos, and a one-time member of the Fordham University football squad. Small in stature and young in years, but big of reputation, "Johnny" (to the hero-worshipping boys) has been largely responsible for the success of the club. At present (1940), there are 280 members between the ages of 8 and 21 years; a "Booster Club" has a membership of 50 adults. Membership fees are in four classifications: boys between 8 and 12 pay 25c per year; 12 to 15, 50c per year; 15 to 21, 75 cents per year; and the adult boosters, \$1 a year.

WEST HAVEN NATIONAL GUARD

In 1922, when the post-war National Guard of Connecticut was expanded from one regiment of infantry to two, two new machine gun companies were organized in the New Haven area. Largely through the efforts of Colonel (then Major) Lewis L. Field, one of these units was assigned to West Haven. Recruiting was supported by veterans' and other patriotic organizations and by interested citizens; the company was soon brought to the required strength and received Federal recognition on July 1, 1923. The new unit was designated Company H, 170th Infantry, Connecticut National Guard. On February 28, 1924, the 170th Infantry was redesignated the 102nd Infantry, its war-time number.

Robert H. Stevenson, who had been serving as Second Lieutenant of Company D in New Haven, was promoted to Captain and became the first Company Commander of the new unit. The junior officers were First Lieutenant, William L. Larash (now Major), and Second Lieutenant, Harry Robinson.

Company H began its training in cramped and inadequate quarters in the Town Hall. In the summer of 1923, the Company served its first field training period at Camp Templeton, Niantic, acquitting itself creditably, despite the small amount of preliminary training the men had received.

Shortly after returning from this first camp, Captain Stevenson was ordered to the Infantry School at Fort Benning, Columbus, Georgia, where he took the three months' course for National Guard and Reserve Officers. On his return he was promoted to Major and detailed as Regimental Machine Gun Officer. First Lieutenant Larash was then promoted to Captain and succeeded Major Stevenson in command of the company.

After a little more than a year, Captain Larash was detailed as Assistant Machine Gun Officer on the Regimental Staff and was succeeded by Captain John F. Lynch. Captain Larash was later promoted to Major and is now a member of the Brigade Staff. Captain Lynch was succeeded by Captain Percival R. Jacques, one of the original members of the company, who served as Company Commander from 1927 until 1935. Captain Wallace A. Moyle, the next commander, served until 1937 when he was succeeded by Captain Herbert A. Metcalfe, one of the original enlisted men of the company. Captain Moyle was promoted to the State Staff on which he now serves as Major.

This company functioned as a machine gun unit of the regiment until it was disbanded in October, 1939. At that time, its designation, Company H, was transferred to Waterbury, replacing the Howitzer Company. Captain Metcalfe was transferred to command Company M in Ansonia, and Second Lieutenant Stephen Brown was transferred to Company H at Waterbury.

With a personnel reduced from 62 men and 3 officers to 37 men and one officer, the local unit was redesignated an Anti-Tank Platoon of Headquarters Company, 102 Inf., C. N. G. The machine guns, shipped to Waterbury, were

WEST HAVEN NATIONAL GUARD

replaced with 37 MM anti-tank guns. First Lieutenant Harold Berry, former Platoon Commander of Company H, is in command of the new Anti-Tank Platoon.

On May 7, 1940, a bronze bas-relief bust of Colonel John Henry Parker, of West Haven, World War Commander of the 102nd Infantry, was unveiled at the Goffe Street Armory in New Haven. Colonel Parker, known throughout the United States Army as "Machine Gun Parker", is the man who first used a rapid fire gun in modern warfare (at San Juan Hill) and who established machine gun schools for training the A. E. F. in France. The bas-relief by Michael Martino was executed under the direction of the Federal Arts Projects.

SERVICE COMPANY, 102nd Inf., CNG

About six months after the dedication of the West Haven Armory, in 1933, Service Company, 102nd Inf., C. N. G., composed almost entirely of New Haven men, was assigned to quarters in that building. This unit, organized in 1923, was first commanded by Captain Joseph S. Carusi. In 1925, he was succeeded by Captain Joseph D. McMahon. Upon the sudden death of Captain McMahon in 1932, the present commander, Captain Anthony Rappa, took charge of the company. A part of the Service Company, the Band Section, and the Headquarters Detachment, are stationed in New Haven. The company's duties are among the most arduous and tedious in military life and contribute largely to the smooth functioning of the entire regiment.

WEST HAVEN ARMORY

Of red brick with a modernistic entrance of limestone, the West Haven Armory, erected at a cost of \$150,000 and dedicated July 22nd, 1933, is considered by high-ranking military officials as one of the finest of such structures in the State. Unlike most armories, because of its radical departure from the stereotyped fort-like architecture, the building has a front section two stories high. In this section, is a veterans' room, for the use of various veterans' organizations, and apartments for the State armorer. The drill shed, although not as large as in some armories of the State, is adequate for the units stationed in West Haven. The walls of the shed are of special sound-absorbing material; across one end of the hall is a large balcony with a seating capacity of 250. Locker rooms for the military personnel, on either side of the drill floor, are equipped with fire-proof lockers, tiled lavatories, and showers. Commissioned officers' quarters and lounge rooms are handsomely furnished. In the basement is a fully equipped kitchen, company supply rooms, a garage, and a rifle range.

The legislative appropriation for the building of the Armory was secured largely through the efforts of Colonel Lewis L. Field, Major William L. Larash, and Capt. John F. Lynch.

1. Burwell Heights
2. Lincoln School
3. Adjutant Campbell Monument
4. New Haven County Home
5. Campbell Avenue School
6. Union Congregational Church
7. Forest School and Allingtown Branch Library
8. Park Theatre
9. Allingtown Fire Dept.
10. Alling House
11. St. Paul's Roman Catholic Church
12. First Avenue School
13. William Wirt Winchester Hospital
14. North End Hose Company
15. Richard Thomas House
16. Nehemiah Smith House
17. Stiles School
18. Stevens House
19. Humpreville—Clark—Ward House
20. Lutheran Church
21. Methodist Episcopal Home for the Aged
22. Johnson—Austin House
23. Site of First Log House in West Haven
24. Second Avenue Hook and Ladder Company
25. Methodist Episcopal Church
26. West Haven Public Library
27. Rivoli Theatre
28. U. S. Post Office
29. First National Bank, West Haven Branch
30. Baptist Church
31. Center Hose Company
32. Town Hall
33. Mallory—Smith House
34. Union School
35. West Haven High School
36. St. Lawrence's Roman Catholic School
37. St. Lawrence's Roman Catholic Church
38. Bayview Park
39. Cameo Theatre
40. World War Memorial
41. First Congregational Church
42. Christ Episcopal Church
43. Washington School
44. Noble School
45. St. Martin's-in-the-Field Episcopal Church
46. Salvation Army
47. Savin Rock Hose Company
48. Hill's Homestead
49. Plaque Designating the Spot of Tryon's Landing
50. Savin Rock
51. Thompson School
52. Capt. John Ward House
53. Abbott Park
54. West Shore Fire Dept.
55. Colonial Park School and Prospect Beach Library
(Branch of West Haven Library)
56. Our Lady of Victory Roman Catholic Church
57. Samuel Clark House
58. Merwin-Hubbard House
59. Sorghum Mill

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47	48
49	50
51	52
53	54
55	56
57	58
59	60
61	62
63	64
65	66
67	68
69	70
71	72
73	74
75	76
77	78
79	80
81	82
83	84
85	86
87	88
89	90
91	92
93	94
95	96
97	98
99	100

4

7

CEX

R





A MAP OF WEST HAVEN CONNECTICUT



PREPARED BY

CONN. WRITERS PROJECT
WORK PROJECTS ADMINISTRATION

1940

SCALE IN FEET

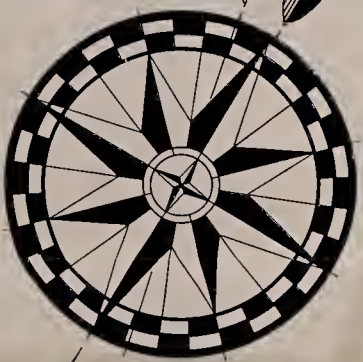


LEGEND

- U.S. HIGHWAYS ———— 1 ————
- STATE HIGHWAYS ———— 34 ————
- SEAPLANE BASE ———— ⊕ ————



MAGNETIC NORTH
VAR 12°30' IN 1936



LONG ISLAND SOUND

5



WES
CON



CONN. V.

WORLD PROJET

WORLD PROJET

WORLD PROJET

WORLD PROJET

WORLD

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